

Peres to be foreign minister

TEL AVIV (R) — Shimon Peres, who for years has struggled for power and peace, secured another chance at both on Saturday as Israel's next foreign minister. Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin, forming a coalition after winning an election last month, gave Mr. Peres the job at a meeting between the two men on Saturday, party officials said. The formal announcement is expected on Sunday afternoon. Mr. Rabin plans to present his new government to parliament next week. Mr. Rabin, 70, and Mr. Peres, 68, are longtime political rivals who have taken turns as Labour Party chairman for the last 18 years. In February, Mr. Rabin retook control from Mr. Peres after 15 years. He went on to achieve what Mr. Peres never could by taking the party to victory over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline Likud on June 23.

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Decree endorses return of ambassadors

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday endorsing the return to the Foreign Ministry of Jordan's ambassador to France Awad Al Khaldi with effect Aug. 15. Walced Bataineh from Iraq with effect from Aug. 1, and Hani Tabbaza from Yugoslavia. Successors to the ambassadors were not immediately named, but informed sources said the appointment would be announced as part of a larger reshuffle of senior government officials. Another decree issued Sunday recognised the new government of Afghanistan and another conferred the Medal of the First Order on Nasreddin Al Nashashibi.

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Extremist leader arrested in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have arrested a key Muslim militant leader wanted for his alleged role in attacks which killed at least 16 people in upper Egypt since March, security sources said on Saturday. Gamal Farhali Haridi, a 35-year-old former reserve army officer, was arrested in a police raid in the Cairo suburb of Mataria at dawn on Friday, the sources said. Security forces, acting on a tip, also arrested several other militants and seized automatic rifles and a pistol. Police have been seeking Mr. Haridi since March when three people were shot dead in a village near the troubled Assiut province in Central Egypt. Haridi, alleged to be the military strategist of Muslim militants in Dayrut town near Assiut, has also been described as the mastermind of machinegun attacks on May 4 in which 13 people, 12 of them Christians, were killed.

5 Russian soldiers killed in Armenia

MOSCOW (R) — Five Russian soldiers were killed in a gunbattle with Armenian security forces on Friday in a disputed incident likely to strain relations between Yerevan and Moscow. The Russian Defence Ministry on Saturday accused the Armenians of launching a "bandit attack" on an army convoy in an attempt to seize their weapons. But the Armenian news agency Snark said the soldiers had been caught trying to remove military communications equipment illegally and had opened fire on Armenian forces first. It said three Armenian police and three civilian bystanders were also killed in the gunbattle, in Kumairi (formerly Leninakan) in the west of the former Soviet republic.

Hamadis to serve time in same prison

BERLIN (AP) — Authorities said Saturday two Lebanese brothers are to be held in the same prison following the release of two Germans who were the last Western hostages held in Lebanon. Mohammad Hamadi, serving a life sentence for murder and aircraft hijacking, will be moved from a prison in Hesse state to the Saarbrücken prison where his brother, Abbas Hamadi, is serving a 13-year sentence for kidnapping, said the Saarland state justice ministry spokeswoman, Monika Hermanns. Ms. Hermanns said the state was acting on a request from the national government. On June 17, the Hamadi clan in Lebanon freed two Germans who had been held since May 1989 against a demand for freedom for the two Hamadi brothers jailed in Germany. The German government refused to consider the demand, though there also were press reports that the Hamadi clan finally asked for better conditions including being held in the same prison.

3 Kurds killed in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Gunmen shot dead three Kurdish civilians and wounded a woman after stopping their car in southeast Turkey, a provincial governor said on Saturday. Sirnak Governor Mustafa Talay said the civilians from Senova village had been driving towards Uluhere, near the Iraqi border, when four or five gunmen intercepted them on Friday night. A child in the same car was unhurt, he said. "We do not know who the attackers were. We are trying to find them," Mr. Talay told Reuters by telephone. The wounded woman later told reporters the assailants were village guards. It was not clear how she had identified them.

Nigerian runs wild at Cairo airport

CAIRO (R) — A Nigerian smashed a duty-free shop window at Cairo airport and ran onto the runway threatening to storm onto a plane on Saturday after he was barred from flying to London, officials said. The 45-year-old man, enraged when told he could not fly until officials made sure a visa was waiting for him in London, was overpowered by police and injected with sedative. Officials said he was being deported on the next flight to Lagos.

Tzomet opts not to join Rabin coalition

Meretz assumes make-or-break role

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The leader of a right-wing party wooed by Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday he would not join the government because he feared it would make too many concessions to the Arabs. Rafael Eitan, who heads the hawkish Tzomet faction also said he would vote against Mr. Rabin's left-of-centre coalition when it is presented to parliament for approval on Monday.

"This government will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, a freeze of settlements and territorial compromise," Mr. Eitan told the Associated Press in a telephone interview. "This will lead to the destruction of Israel." Mr. Rabin's Labour Party has already signed coalition agreements with the Meretz bloc and the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, but wants to bring in Tzomet as a counterweight to Meretz. Mr. Rabin also wants to have as broad a coalition as possible so no faction can blackmail him by threatening to quit.

The Labour-Meretz-Shas coalition would command 62 seats in the 120-member parliament, and could count on the support of two Arab and three communist legislators from outside.

Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said Saturday that no meetings between Tzomet and Labour were scheduled, but that there might be contacts soon. Mr. Ben-Ari said the two sides had made significant progress in negotiations over government guidelines. "We have the impression that their objection (to joining the coalition) is not definite," he said.

Mr. Rabin and Eitan last met Friday, and reports said the dispute focused on portfolios.

Mr. Rabin has pledged to negotiate an autonomy arrangement with the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip within a year. He has also said he would curb construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

In a permanent agreement with the Palestinians, to be negotiated after several years of autonomy, Labour is ready to return some land, but opposes the creation of a Palestinian state.

There will be powerful forces working against the Rabin government's pledge to seek peace. Not only will Mr. Rabin face differing voices within the cabinet that he is building, but in Israel as a whole. Polls always show Israelis divided about 50-50 on

making peace, and the right-wing will play on every Israeli fear.

The ink was barely dry on the agreements with the left-wing Meretz and the religious Shas giving him a majority in parliament when the hawks started attacking.

"I think we have to recognise that Israel is besieged, and anybody who does not recognise that ... will be treading a very dangerous road," outgoing Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Friday.

Arabs, too, were cautious. "It is fallacious to assume that Rabin government will readily come out with surprise concessions to the Arabs," Jordanian political scientist Labib Qamhawi said in Amman.

Mr. Rabin, a former general, is well aware that the words "peace" and "security" are inseparable in Israel and has couched his promises for one in terms of the other.

"I believe it is a reasonable government that on one hand will try and achieve peace (while) by no means risking even slightly our security," Mr. Rabin said this week.

The trick, says Israeli political scientist Peter Medding, will be "how to put this jigsaw puzzle of peace and security together."

Palestinian leaders welcome Fateh-Hamas pact, hope it holds

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of Palestinian factions in Jordan Saturday welcomed an agreement reached between secular Fateh and Islamist Hamas in the occupied territories to end violence between their supporters and expressed hope that the accord would be respected by all sides concerned.

"We are committed to this agreement and hope that it will hold," said Ibrahim Ghoshe, the Hamas representative in Amman, adding that the decision was reached by "the actual leadership of Hamas in Palestine" following a joint Fateh-Hamas statement issued in Amman over the weekend and a meeting in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday.

Palestinian analysts said the Amman communiqué repre-

sented the voice of Fateh and Hamas supporters in the diaspora while the final decision to seek reconciliation or otherwise rested with their leaderships in the occupied territories as indicated by Mr. Ghoshe.

No senior Fateh official was available for comment in Amman, but sources from the movement pointed out that the group was most anxious to ensure that inter-Palestinian violence ended.

The agreement, worked out by a broad spectrum of Palestinian and Israeli Arab personalities, including Palestinian peace negotiators, was announced late Friday after extended talks.

Informed sources said in Amman that several of those attending the meeting undertook to act as "guarantors" for the agreement. These include Abdul Wahab Darawshe, an Israeli Arab member of parliament,

Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, head of Arab councils in Israel, Sheikh Raed Saleh, a prominent Islamic mayor, and Faisal Al Hussein and Saeb Erakat, leader and member respectively of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, the sources said. Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, led the overall mediation committee to the meeting, which was held at the residence of Ali Abu Shababan in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Abdul Rahman Hamad signed for Fateh while signing on behalf of Hamas were Mahmoud Al Dahar and Abdul Aziz Al Rantzi.

The agreement announced "an immediate end to all internal fighting and clashes between Fateh and Hamas ... a national

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U.N. gets fallout in Sarajevo fighting

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Mortar rounds landed near the U.N. headquarters and the peacekeepers' barracks early Saturday, and Bosnian leaders complained the West's latest moves to end the 4½-month civil war were too weak to deter Serb fighters. In Belgrade, capital of the Serbian-dominated remnants of Yugoslavia, Premier-designate Milan Panic promised again Saturday to get the U.N. sanctions against his country lifted and said he was satisfied by meetings with Western officials in Helsinki, Finland.

Mr. Panic took a step Saturday to quell intense fighting around Gorazde, south of Sarajevo, by calling Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serb forces, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said. Mr. Karadzic told Mr. Panic he would appeal the clashes to end and peace talks to begin, the report said.

Serb irregular forces turned their guns on Gorazde Saturday and fighting raged in other parts of the republic.

Sarajevo, under siege by Serb forces for three months, was calm after fierce overnight fighting and

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'Death squads' should not have been unveiled - Arens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's outgoing Defence Minister Moshe Arens has criticised last year's decision by the army chief to reveal the existence of special undercover units operating in the occupied territories.

In an interview aired on Israel Radio on Saturday, Mr. Arens said he was not consulted prior to the television report which showed members of the secret units, disguised as Arabs, arresting Palestinians. "This was done without my approval. I was abroad and was not asked to give approval and for this reason it was not okay," Mr. Arens said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other right-wing politicians criticised Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak at the time for his decision to make public the existence of the special units, or "death squads."

Israel has repeatedly denied allegations by human rights groups that the squads pursue a shoot-to-kill policy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

An Israeli army court last week said that in 1989 undercover squads in the occupied Gaza Strip were given orders which could have been understood as a licence to kill.

More than 30 Palestinians have been killed this year by undercover units.

Mr. Arens also said there was a discipline problem in the army

which contributed to the recent deaths of six soldiers in training and operational accidents.

"I think there is a discipline problem in the Israeli defence forces," he said, adding investigations of the deaths showed that "in too many cases, we see that people deviated from regulations, deviated from orders."

"It is difficult not to draw the conclusion that apparently there are many more incidents in which people don't operate according to regulations and orders, and this is not discovered," Mr. Arens added.

Asked how widespread the discipline problem was, he said: "I think the army has to get a grip on itself in this area, from the top to the bottom, from the chief of staff to the private."

Mr. Arens also took a swipe at other army brass. "There were too many incidents in which senior officers talked in the media about issues on which the military shouldn't make any declarations," he said.

Last Thursday, an Israeli army undercover soldier was mistaken for an armed Palestinian and shot dead by his own unit during an operation in the occupied West Bank, military sources said.

"One of the undercover troops saw a fellow undercover soldier dressed as an Arab with a pistol in his hand, and shot and killed him by mistake," military sources said at the time.



Israeli Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin and Education Minister-designate Shulamit Aloni shake hands at the signing of the coalition agreement between Labour and Meretz

Arafat says Rabin has changed his tone since election victory

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said on Saturday he saw no reason for optimism about Middle East peace despite a pledge by Israeli Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin to speed up the peace process.

He said Mr. Rabin had changed his tone on the peace process since his victory in last month's general elections.

"I say to Rabin, your political language has changed after the elections from that before the polls. Rabin said he would not withdraw from the occupied territories without holding a public referendum," the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman said.

Mr. Rabin has said he is committed to granting Palestinians under occupation limited self-rule by next year.

But his spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said on July 5 Mr. Rabin had proposed any land-for-peace territorial compromise should be submitted for the approval of Israeli voters before being signed.

Mr. Arafat told the annual meeting of the Palestine Educa-

tional, Cultural and Scientific Organisation that Palestinians in turn would not sign peace with Israel without consulting "our legislative institutions for approval." He did not elaborate.

"I don't see Rabin as different from (outgoing Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir," Mr. Arafat said.

"Unfortunately some of our Arab brothers have slipped and welcomed him," he said. "Rabin broke the bones of our brothers. He set up the early settlements in the occupied territories."

Labour Party leader Rabin, who upset Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud Party in the elections, is blamed by Arabs for launching a policy of "might, power and beatings" against the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat also denounced Mr. Rabin's role in Israel's de facto annexation of East Jerusalem to make it part of its "capital" just after the June 1967 war. Mr. Rabin then was army chief of staff.

"Rabin is one of those Zionists who want to entrench themselves on Arab land," Mr. Arafat said.

"If he wants peace, then he should remove form Israeli currency the map of a greater Israel stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates. This map shows Israeli intentions."

During a Cairo visit June 24-25, Mr. Arafat told reporters Mr. Rabin's election victory "shows that the Israeli people voted against the terrorism Shamir perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories." He added that he was looking forward to "positive movement by the new government towards peace."

Noting Mr. Rabin's pledge of a referendum to endorse any territorial concessions to the Arabs, Mr. Arafat said in Saturday's speech that the Palestinians likewise "will not sign any agreement with Rabin unless it is approved by their legislative bodies," topped by the Palestine National Council.

Mr. Arafat listed Palestinian casualties in the uprising as 98,000 wounded, 6,600 crippled, 123,000 imprisoned and 8,000 miscarriages among women. He gave no figure for the dead.

Mubarak, Sharaa discuss peace process

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa discussed Saturday future Middle East peace moves after the change of leadership in Israel, government officials said.

Mr. Mubarak received Mr. Sharaa at a presidential rest house west of the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. No official statements were issued after the meeting, attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa.

But the officials, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, said the main topic was the future course of Middle East peace negotiations that opened in Madrid, Spain, last October and continued in Washington.

Five rounds of bilateral talks involving Israel on one hand and Syria, Jordan, the Palestinians and Lebanon on the other have been held so far. The next round is to be in Rome, but no date has been set.

The officials said that Syria is planning to host a meeting in Damascus in late July of its Arab partners in the peace talks. The aim, they said, is to discuss strategy after Israel's Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin won last month's parliamentary elections and formed a coalition government to be installed next week.

Mr. Rabin is widely considered to have more flexible peace policies than outgoing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Mr. Rabin advocates trading some of the occupied territories for a peace pact and has proposed curbs on Jewish settlements there.

He also wants to speed up

U.N. team leader leaves Iraq; vigil outside ministry continues

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A U.S. army major heading a U.N. weapons team involved in a standoff in Iraq left for New York on Saturday but remaining members of the team continued their vigil at a ministry building in Baghdad.

As the standoff continued into a seventh day, a man set himself on fire outside the Agriculture Ministry to protest the presence of the U.N. inspectors who have been there since last Sunday.

Witnesses said the man cried Allahu Akbar before pouring petrol on his legs and setting himself ablaze. The Iraqi, so far unidentified, was badly burned and taken to hospital in a government car.

Earlier, Iraqi women and children burned a flag outside the ministry where they denounced both the United States and the United Nations which has demanded that Baghdad allow inspectors to enter the building.

Diplomats say the inspectors want to search the building for evidence of Iraq's ballistic missiles programme, but Iraq denies accusations that it has military information stored there.

U.S. Army Major Karen Jansen, whose demand to enter the ministry building created the standoff, left Iraq saying she was taking up a new post assessing Iraqi compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"Ironically, I will be in New York to chair an international panel to assess Iraqi compliance," she said. "I cannot say I have achieved everything in my mission," she added before her departure to Bahrain en route to New York.

Maj. Jansen was replaced by another American, Mark Silver. The chairman of the U.N. special commission said Friday in

New York the Iraqis may be destroying documents on long-range missiles inside the building.

But the chairman, Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, added: "We will get into the building."

Iraq's minister of agriculture and irrigation, Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Al Sabbagh, appealed in a letter to other Arab governments to put pressure on the United Nations to end the vigil.

Previous confrontations between U.N. inspectors and Iraqi authorities have ended with Iraq backing down.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the Iraqi request "urged Arab countries to urgently intervene with the Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly to end this provocative act."

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Nahda activists refuse to answer questions

TUNIS (R) — Muslim fundamentalists on trial in a Tunisian military court on Saturday rejected charges they had planned a coup and refused to answer questions.

A total of 279 defendants, many of them facing the death penalty, are charged with plotting to assassinate President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali as part of a plan to turn Tunisia into an Islamic state.

The first defendants to testify acknowledged their membership of the banned fundamentalist Al Nahda (renaissance) movement, but denied they had planned to kill Mr. Ben Ali or create an Islamic state.

They said their confessions during the investigation were made under pressure and refused to answer questions, saying their lawyers had not been allowed to visit them in prison before the trial to prepare their cases.

Defence lawyers complained on Thursday that only a few of them had been able to visit their clients before the trial.

The public prosecutor, an army officer, denied the charge, saying all facilities had been available to the lawyers.

Bechir Kedous, chairman of the court, issued orders to allow all of them to visit their clients "within the limits of security requirements."

Few defence lawyers attended Saturday's session. Most of those attending had been drafted from among the trainee lawyers.

Two lawyers and former Mr. Nahda leaders, Abdul Fattah Mourou and Moureddine Bhiri, who used to defend the fundamentalists, are not taking part in the trial.

They resigned from Al Nahda last year after the government announced the discovery of a

coup plot.

"The absence of senior lawyers illustrates Al Nahda's political isolation. During the 1987 trial, lawyers overwhelmingly defended the Nahda leaders. But now, they are keeping their distance, they don't want to be branded Al Nahda's lawyer," said one lawyer.

Foreign journalists, observers from the London-based human rights organisations Amnesty International and the Arab Human Rights organisation are present at the trial.

Officials said before the trial began they expected the defendants would focus on their treatment to divert public attention from what they called the facts of the case.

Mr. Kedous said hearings for the 171-strong first group would last 10 to 15 days. The hearings for the 108 in the second group are due to resume on July 27.

Rabin coalition may grow and toughen

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Yitzhak Rabin has put together a government that looks narrower and more dove-laden than expected. But that may change.

The coalition Mr. Rabin will present to parliament next week represents a triumph for the 70-year-old ex-general, both because it took just 16 days to form and because it brings together ultra-religious and avowedly secular Jews.

Mr. Rabin's senior coalition partner, the left-wing Meretz bloc, will be free to propound its views on the peace process. That means that for the first time, a loud, firm pro-Palestinian voice will issue forth from an Israeli government.

Mr. Rabin still hopes to draw in the hardline Tzomet

Party, so he can form a coalition clearly balanced between doves and hawks, in which no one party could hold him to ransom.

But with or without Tzomet, the new government is bound to show more flexibility at the Middle East bargaining table than did Yitzhak Shamir's outgoing government.

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Mr. Rabin has promised to cut back on the construction of Jewish settlements on the occupied territories, and to speed up granting self-rule for the Palestinians.

Tzomet, which backs the expanding settlement policy of the outgoing Shamir government, would boost Mr. Rabin's government's majority but

might limit his moves to trim the settlements.

Under the coalition pacts signed Thursday night, Labour with 44 seats is joined by the 12-seat Meretz bloc and Shas, a six-seat religious party whose preoccupations are chiefly domestic but which leans towards moderation in the peace talks.

That gives Mr. Rabin a 62-seat majority in the 120-member parliament, plus the guaranteed support of two Arab party seats and three communists.

But since no government of a Jewish state can allow itself to depend on Arabs and communists, the lineup means either Meretz or Shas could bring down the coalition.

To keep Meretz sweet, Mr. Rabin attached a letter to the coalition agreement that enti-

ties Meretz to express opinions on the peace process that conflict with his party's platform.

Spelled out in the letter are Meretz positions such as recognition of Palestinian self-determination and a role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in peace talks, if the PLO clearly recognises Israel and disavows terrorism.

But Meretz could not initiate legislation without cabinet permission or vote against the government on peace-related issues.

Still, Meretz's freedoms will bolster doves in the Labour Party like Haim Ramon, who said after the agreement was signed: "We will make a peace process, we will treat it seriously, we will stop wasting money on settlements. ... That's what we promised, and that's what we'll do."



Ashrawi warns U.S. on loan guarantees for Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Palestinian spokeswoman Hassan Ashrawi has said her delegation would walk out of Middle East peace talks if the United States softens its conditions for providing Israel with \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

She said in a television interview the United States would be "delegitimising and disqualifying itself" as a co-sponsor of the peace talks if it approves the loan guarantees while Israel's new government continued to build settlements in the occupied territories.

The Bush administration has insisted on a freeze on settlements activity as its price for allowing Israel to have the loan guarantees, which are needed for construction of housing for immigrants.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Harrop, indicated Friday the new Israeli government under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had a chance of getting the guarantees.

"We hope that the policies of the new Israeli government will make it possible for America to offer loan guarantees to facilitate large new infusions of funds," Mr. Harrop told Israeli industrialists.

Dr. Ashrawi said American credibility was at stake in the loan guarantee issue.

"If you become a party to an illegal act, if you allow American funds to be used for something which violates American law and international law, then you have lost your credibility as an impartial peace broker," she said, according to a transcript of her remarks.

Asked whether Palestinians will continue to take part in the peace process under such circumstances, Dr. Ashrawi said: "We cannot do that because we will be party to a whole situation that is asking the Palestinians to self-negate and self-destruct. Then the peace process is entirely meaningless," she said.

Asked whether her delegation would walk out, she said, "We will have to."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. Gulf war cost set at \$58 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. House of Representatives sub-committee has approved a final \$4 billion to cover America's Gulf war costs, raising the U.S. total to \$57 billion, congressional aides said on Friday. The House Defence Appropriations Sub-committee took the action in a supplemental appropriation bill it approved on Thursday and sent on for action by the full house and Senate. Allies contributed \$34 billion to the United States for war-related costs and the U.S. Congress had approved \$15 billion to cover America's costs, bringing the total available to \$69 billion.

Tunisian prime minister to visit Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui will start a three-day visit to Turkey on Tuesday at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel, the Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

Austria summons Iraqi envoy after attack

VIENNA (R) — Austria summoned the Iraqi ambassador on Friday to express its concern about a hand grenade attack which injured two Austrian U.N. guards in northern Iraq. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Ambassador Rahim Al Kital was summoned to the ministry after the incident, disclosed by the United Nations on Thursday, in which a grenade was thrown into the garden of a house being used by the guards. But he said the move stopped short of a formal protest. The incident, at Erbil in Kurdish territory, was one of a series in recent weeks in the same area, including a car bomb attack on Monday that narrowly missed Danielle Mitterrand, wife of French President Francois Mitterrand. The spokesman said Mr. Kital had given assurances that the Iraqi authorities would do their best to trace the attackers. No one has yet admitted responsibility for the attacks.

Egypt says ties improving with Iran

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said on Saturday relations with Iran had greatly improved due to Syrian mediation. Asked about Syria's efforts to restore Cairo's ties with Tehran, Mr. Musa told reporters: "Syria's role is great in the area and its political cooperation is huge and growing. Relations between Egypt and Iran are now on their way to normalisation." Cairo and Tehran have had no diplomatic relations since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran and ties during the 1980s were strained by Egyptian accusations of Iranian support to Muslim militants seeking to establish an Islamic state in Egypt. Egyptian support to Iraq during its 1980-88 war with Iran also contributed to a steady deterioration in ties. But signs have been growing of a thaw in relations and Mr. Musa talks with his Iranian counterpart last month on the sidelines of an Islamic ministerial meeting in Istanbul.

Waite meets woman who kept hopes alive

BEDFORD, England (R) — Freed hostage Terry Waite came face-to-face for the first time on Friday with the only Briton to make contact with him during his nearly five years in the hands of Lebanese kidnappers. Well-wisher Joy Brodier had sent Mr. Waite a birthday postcard of non-conformist 17th century preacher John Bunyan, author of the Pilgrim's Progress, which managed to reach him in Beirut despite ignorance in the west of his whereabouts. The former Church of England envoy told on his release last November of how the card turned despair to hope in his Beirut cell and made clear he wanted to meet the sender. His wish came true when he met Ms. Brodier at the Bunyan Meeting House in Bedford, north of London, beneath the stained glass window depicted on the postcard to launch an appeal for a new youth charity, Care International. Mr. Waite said one of his guards had taken away the postcard, the only message among thousands sent by British well-wishers to get through and which he kept in the Bible he read for comfort.

Egyptian policeman accused of torture

CAIRO (R) — A Muslim militant on trial for his alleged role in the 1990 assassination of Egypt's parliament speaker accused a police officer on Saturday of torturing him and the court ordered an investigation into the claim. "Mr. President, this witness who is testifying before you now is a police officer who beat me and tortured me in detention to force me to confess I committed the crime," Mahmoud Ali Yousef shouted from the court cage. The officer was named in court as Mohammad Abdul Halim Barakat but the defendant said that while in police detention he was told the policeman was called Khaled. The three-member panel ordered state prosecutors to investigate the charges. In April, the court ordered an investigation of torture accusations by three defendants against another police witness in the case. Previous torture charges by Muslim fundamentalists been systematically dismissed in courts for lack of evidence.

Libya denies role in Lockerbie compensation

NICOSIA (R) — Libya has denied it was behind a reported face-saving compensation offer to families of the victims of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

"As we reiterate our sympathy with the families of the victims, we stress that what has been said was groundless," a foreign ministry source said in a statement carried by the official Libyan News Agency, JANA.

U.S. NBC television reported on Wednesday victims' families were being pressed to accept \$1 million each in a deal to allow Libya to save face by turning over the suspects in the attack for trial by a sympathetic court.

"A U.S. official said on Thursday the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was probing whether lobbyists approaching the families were agents of Libya. The NBC report said Henry Karthner, identified only as an American agriculturalist, had come up with the plan as a means of lifting U.S. trade sanctions against Libya."

"The goal of circulating such news is to create a moral influence aimed at harming the Great Jamahiriyyah (Libya) politically,"

JANA quoted the official as saying.

"How could there be talk about compensation when no investigation or trial of the two suspects has taken place yet?"

Two Libyans are wanted by the United States and Britain for their alleged involvement in the getting the bomb on the plane. Libya has so far refused to hand them over for trial.

A U.S. jury on Friday found Pan American World Airways guilty of "willful misconduct" for lax security before the 1988 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

Embassy not against sanction — Jakarta

Indonesia has defended its recent establishment of diplomatic relations with Libya, asserting the exchange of embassies did not violate U.N. sanctions against the country.

"The decision to establish diplomatic relations and open an embassy was taken long before the Security Council passed the sanction against Libya," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told the Jakarta Post on Friday.

The new Libyan embassy opened in a luxury hotel last month, ahead of a meeting of the 105-member Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta in September.

In March the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions, including a reduction of Libyan diplomats in member states for Libya's failure to surrender for trial the two suspects in the Pan Am bombing.

Mr. Alatas said the council resolution did not apply because Indonesia and Libya had signed an agreement in New York on Oct. 17, 1991, to establish diplomatic relations and that the resolution only called for a reduction of Libyan diplomats.

Britain, Libya meet again

Britain has asked Libya for more information about its past support for the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the Foreign Office said Friday.

A spokesman said Britain's ambassador to Egypt, Christopher Long, met secretly Thursday in Cairo with Libya's ambassador to Tunisia, Abdul Ati Al Obeidi.

The Foreign Office spokesman

said during the 45-minute meeting Mr. Long had "handed over a list of questions seeking clarification of operational value in the 'fight against the IRA'."

The meeting followed talks June 9 between British and Libyan officials in Geneva, when the Libyans gave details of past links with the IRA. Mr. Obeidi led the Libyan delegation on that occasion.

Britain said after the Geneva meeting it remained unconvinced that Libya has stopped supporting the IRA despite an assertion that it wanted to cut these links. It said information given by the Libyan delegation was "incomplete."

The Foreign Office spokesman said Friday details from the Geneva meeting had been evaluated and used to compile Mr. Long's list of questions.

He said the Libyan had given long no further clarification of Libya's support for the IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

The spokesman said Libya's willingness to discuss its links to the IRA would not soften support for U.N. sanctions against Libya.

Perot drawing Jewish voters from Bush

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Ross Perot, an unofficial independent presidential candidate, is gaining support away from President George Bush among Jewish voters, according to exit polling results commissioned by the National Jewish Democratic Council (NJDC).

According to exit polling taken during the primary in California, 63 per cent of Jewish Republican voters would vote for Mr. Perot as opposed to 31 per cent for Mr. Bush. Stuart Eizenstat, vice-chair of NJDC, said in a press conference on Friday.

In New Jersey, 42 per cent of Jewish Republican voters would vote for Mr. Perot in the November election, as opposed to 33 per cent for Mr. Bush, according to the NJDC poll.

Jewish Democrats, however, strongly support their party's candidate, Governor Bill Clinton. Mr. Eizenstat said. In California, Jewish Democrats gave Mr. Clinton 65 per cent of the vote. Mr. Perot 27 per cent and with no Democrats supporting Mr. Bush. In New Jersey, 72 per cent of Jewish Democrats supported Mr. Clinton, 19 per cent supported Mr. Perot and three per cent for Mr. Bush.

Steve Gutow, the director of NJDC, noted that Democratic vice-presidential candidate Senator Albert Gore "is well perceived and well liked in the Jewish community."

The NJDC survey "under-

scores that President Bush is in very, very serious trouble with the Jewish voter," Mr. Eizenstat, a former policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter, said.

"Perot hurts Bush very badly among Jewish voters," he said. This may be particularly true in key electoral states such as California, New York, Florida and New Jersey, where there are significant numbers of Jewish voters, Mr. Eizenstat said.

"Individual states can make a difference in a close race," he said.

Asked why Mr. Perot has captured so much Jewish support, Mr. Eizenstat said the self-made billionaire offers a "safe resting place for Jewish Republicans who are disaffected with President Bush's Middle East policies," notably the Israeli loan guarantee issue.

Mr. Eizenstat noted that Jewish voters traditionally vote for the Democratic Party.

The top domestic issues of concern for Jewish voters are the economy and unemployment, according to the NJDC survey. Mr. Health care, education and the environment also rank high, Mr. Eizenstat noted.

While no foreign policy questions were asked during the survey, Mr. Eizenstat stressed that Israel will also be a top issue of concern for the Jewish voter. A candidate must meet the "threshold" of support for Israel, Mr. Eizenstat said.

Lebanese observe Ashura with vow to fight Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Shiite Muslims on Friday observed the death anniversary of their most cherished saint, Imam Hussein Ben Ali, with self-flagellation parades and vows to fight Israel.

Tens of thousands of men, women and youngsters marched through the streets of South Lebanon's market town of Nabatieh 50 kilometres south of Beirut, wearing white death shrouds and slashing their heads with razor-edged curved swords.

Mosque preachers delivered emotion-packed sermons, recounting the 10-day siege in Karbala, south Iraq, that culminated in the imam's death at the hands of forces of the Omayyad empire 13 centuries ago.

In the battle in 680 A.D., the imam, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, and his entire family and 200 supporters were slaughtered. It was part of the fight over who would succeed the Prophet Mohammad that eventually led the Islamic faith to split into Sunni and Shiite sects.

Some of the self-flagellating Shiites fainted in the blazing sun and were scooped up by standby rescue teams of the Lebanese Red Cross.

Police also reported at least 20 people were hospitalised in Nabatieh from cuts to their heads.

Actors dressed in ancient helmets and flowing robes noisily re-enacted the battle of Karbala.

Among the watchers, men beat their heads with their hands and women slapped their own faces at the moment when the imam was cut down.

The actors carried curved swords with two-pronged tips, used in ancient times to snare the blade of an enemy and twist it to expose the enemy's body.

Other parades were held in south Beirut and several other towns in south and east Lebanon.

In south Beirut's Bir Al Abed district, a stronghold of the Hizbollah (Party of God), the festival was less bloody.

Thousands of bearded men with headbands, chador-clad women and children, most in black, beat their heads and chests.

The marchers were led by loudspeaker vans covered with black cloth and portraits of Iran's late revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Khomeini and his successor, Ali Khamenei. Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and several other party commanders led the crowd, many walking barefoot.

Sheikh Nasrallah's deputy, Sheikh Naim Qassem, urged the population to support the guerrilla war against Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"Support the Islamic resistance until victory is reached over the aspects of aggression and oppression represented by the Zionist enemy," Sheikh Qassem said

U.S. Congress urges Syrian withdrawal, polls in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The U.S. Congress has approved a resolution calling on Syria to abide by the terms of the Taif agreement, which stipulates Syrian withdrawal to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley by this September, as a prelude to its complete withdrawal from Lebanon.

The non-binding resolution, which was passed by the Senate on July 1 and by the House of Representatives on July 9, urges the Lebanese government to hold free and fair elections upon completion of the Syrian withdrawal.

Following is the text of Senate Concurrent Resolution 129: "Expressing continued support for the Taif agreement, which

brought a negotiated end to the civil war in Lebanon, and for other purposes.

"Whereas Lebanon's sixteen-year civil war finally was ended by the Taif agreement, brokered by the Arab League on October 22, 1989;

"Whereas the Taif agreement is intended to lead to full restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity;

"Whereas Syria continues to exert undue influence upon the government of Lebanon and maintains an estimated 40,000 Syrian armed forces in Lebanon;

"Whereas truly free and fair elections in Lebanon will not be

possible in areas of foreign military control;

"Whereas, under the Taif agreement, the Syrians must withdraw their armed forces to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley by September 1992; and

"Whereas the success of the Taif agreement depends upon timely Syrian withdrawal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring) —

1) Expresses continuing support for the Taif agreement signed in 1989;

2) Calls upon Syria to withdraw its armed forces to the gateway of the Bekaa Valley in September

1992, as required under the Taif agreement, and as a prelude to complete withdrawal from Lebanon;

3) Urges immediate consideration of possible alternatives to ensuring security in Beirut following the Syrian withdrawal, including the establishment of a United Nations or other multilateral presence in Beirut, if necessary; and

4) Urges the government of Lebanon to hold elections if they can be free and fair, conducted after the Syrian withdrawal and without outside interference, and witnessed by international observers."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 771111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Michael Volitant
17:45 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres
18:10 La Chanson Aux Chansons
19:00 News French
19:15 Magazine E.46
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Wings
21:10 Documentary
21:40 News in English
22:30 Midnight Caller

PRAYER TIMES
05:57 Fajr
05:31 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:40 Dhur
16:21 'Asr
19:49 Maghrib
21:24 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzianita Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623411
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 653266
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 19 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 39
Deserts 16 / 35
Jordan Valley 23 / 38

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 31, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent. Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Hales 819220
Dr. Yehya Abdul Raiss 730072
Dr. Basim Odeh 640024
Dr. Tawfik Qab'ay 623020
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fouad's pharmacy 776336
Al Aqsa pharmacy 637055
Neitroch pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Omar Tahitani (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 273825

ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein (—)
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630041
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 630900
Price Complaints 641176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Rajab 661101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 773111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 63140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Mustashfi 6722719
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/1
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Itina, Al-Mustashfi 77101/3
Al-Sadr, J. Amn 77111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909090

IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
18:00 Jeddah (RJ)
18:10 Larissa (RJ)
18:25 Aqaba (RJ)
18:30 Damascus (RJ)
18:35 Dubai, Bahrain (RJ)
18:40 Amman, Jordan (RJ)
18:45 Cairo (RJ)
18:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:55 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
19:00 London (RJ)
19:05 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:10 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
19:20 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:25 Berlin (RJ)
19:30 Vienna (RJ)
19:35 Rome (RJ)
19:40 Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:50 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
13:00 Cairo (MS)
14:40 Moscow (SU)
16:45 Larnaca (CY)
18:35 Beirut (ME)
18:35 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:20 Damascus (RJ)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:20 Beirut (RJ)
08:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 Rome (RJ)
12:45 Vienna (RJ)
12:50 Athens, Jerusalem (RJ)
12:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:10 Athens (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
21:50 Riyadh (RJ)
21:55 Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 New Delhi (RJ)
22:45 Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:45 Samsat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
10:00 Beirut, Rome (AZ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg
Apple (red) 700 / 600
Apple (green) 400 / 350
Banana 300 / 450
Banana (Mukammal) 350 / 500
Beans 250 / 450
Cabbage 90 / 50
Carrot 240 / 90
Cauliflower 240 / 80
Cucumbers (large) 70 / 40
Cucumbers (small) 130 / 80
Eggplant 240 / 90
Garlic 700 / 600
Lentils 650 / 550
Marrow (large) 130 / 80
Marrow (small) 130 / 80
Onion (dry) 150 / 100
Onion (green) 400 / 300
Oranges 220 / 160
Peaches 350 / 450
Pears 300 / 250
Pepper (hot) 360 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 260 / 200
Potatoes 220 / 160
Sweet Melons 300 / 250
Tomatoes 110 / 30
Watermelon 80 / 20

African delegation voices support for Palestinian cause

AMMAN (Petra) — A parliamentary delegation from the Ivory Coast and four other African nations met here Saturday with the Speakers of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament. Their leader stated later their support of the Palestinian struggle for freedom and that the African countries strive to bolster their ties with the Arab world since their problems and struggle are similar, said Gilbert Blutin, the team's leader from the Ivory Coast.

Mr. Blutin is accompanied by parliamentarians from Liberia, Senegal, Togo and Zaire who met first with the Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al-Lawzi to hear Jordan's views about the developments in the region.

Mr. Lawzi spoke about Jordan's strong ties with the African

countries through the non-aligned movement and His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the continent.

Both the Arab and African countries have common causes and similar quests to secure freedom, scientific development and economic progress, and they ought to maintain their cooperation in these fields, said Mr. Lawzi.

He said that the Arabs and Africans also maintain ties over the questions of South Africa and Palestine where the world continues to witness violations of human rights.

Dr. Abu Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the Lower House Speaker, stressed the need for continued, coordination between Arab and African parliamentarians in issues of common concern.

ESCWA urges world to help end poverty in W. Asia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tayseer Abdel Jaber, under secretary-general of the international community to exert more efforts to eradicate poverty in Western Asia, according to a UN press release.

In a statement made before the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in New York, ESCWA chief invited United Nations member states and the various bodies of the U.N. system to coordinate activities in order to assist national and regional efforts aiming at eradicating poverty.

Dr. Abdel Jaber highlighted activities and studies dealing with the eradication of poverty in the context of ESCWA's social activities. He recalled various actions

to absorb the returnees from the Gulf countries and training some of them as potential entrepreneurs.

Dr. Abdel Jaber also highlighted ESCWA's efforts in promoting women's conditions as a prerequisite for fighting poverty. Women development projects were executed in Jordan, Egypt and Yemen.

ESCWA conducted studies on rural development on social implications of economic adjustment programmes in the member countries.

ESCWA chief stressed the importance of international cooperation and proper policies and actions at the national level to eradicate poverty in the area.

Jordan and China agree to cooperate in youth activities

AMMAN (Petra) — Agreement was reached Saturday between a visiting Chinese team led by Youth Minister Li Yang and Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat on promoting cooperation between China and Jordan in youth and sports activities.

A statement following the meeting said that China expressed readiness to provide Jordan with means to promote its sports and youth activities, and willingness to coordinate Jordanian-Chinese cooperation in youth affairs at regional and international conferences.

The two sides agreed on exchanging publications dealing with cultural topics and youth affairs as well as experts in youth and sports, the statement noted.

Dr. Irsheidat praised the existing Chinese-Jordanian relations in general and the bilateral cooperation in youth related matters in particular. He thanked

China for supporting Jordan's efforts to develop its sports facilities. China had helped the Ministry of Youth to build the Irbid Stadium and provided coaches to help in other sports.

The meeting was attended by officials from both sides who said later that a formal protocol on bilateral cooperation in sports and youth fields will be signed here Sunday.

The Chinese minister and his accompanying delegation were received at the University of Jordan by its president, Fawzi Gharaibeh.

The two sides studied the prospect of launching exchange visits by university students in China and Jordan. Dr. Gharaibeh said the University of Jordan would welcome Chinese students to learn Arabic at the university. Later, the Chinese toured a number of faculties and the university library.

Visitor Information Service (VIP)

The Minaret Foundation has founded the Visitor Information Package (VIP), to provide multimedia tools for a direct calling market place as a computer based, 24-hour-a-day service.

VIP intends to operate in a tourist community by introducing a Talking Directory, which will be accessed via any standard telephone by dialing the widely advertised local telephone number: 682642.

Information will cover hotel reservations, car rentals, eating out, airlines, travel agents, sightseeing tours and the Jerash festival.

The service will be divided into two categories: First, basic listing by giving a description of the subscriber service and his own telephone number. Second, the direct way to the market where the caller will be automatically connected with the service.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Political parties law discussion begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament's law committee met Saturday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Ahmad Al-Lawzi. The committee started its discussions of the political parties law which was recently approved by the Lower House. In another development, the Lower House's law committee met Saturday under its Chairman Hussein Mjalli. The committee debated the publications draft law in the presence of the Jordan Press Association President Saleman Al-Qudat.

Quality of imported meat reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh and Supply Minister Mohammad Al-Saqqa met at the Ministry of Health Saturday and reviewed measures taken by the two ministries in controlling the quality of imported meat. Their two ministries also discussed measures that might be taken in the future in case meat was imported by land. Ministry of Supply sources said that the ministry is currently studying the prospect of importing meat by land. The sources said that this would save consumers about 25 per cent of the price of meat which is being brought to Jordan by air.

U.S. church on familiarisation tour

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs Fayez Jaber received Saturday a U.S. church delegation currently on a visit to Jordan as part of a regional tour aimed at getting familiarised with issues pertaining to Jerusalem and the Middle East peace process. Mr. Jaber briefed the delegation on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian issue and the question of Jerusalem. He pointed out Jordan's stand on Jerusalem and its role in restoring holy Muslim and Christian sites. Mr. Jaber outlined to the delegation illegal measures taken by Israel in the holy city and explained to them violations of U.N. resolutions and international norms by the Jewish state.



Modern technology could enhance Jordan Valley productivity

Khasawneh urges valley farmers to switch crops to maximise land

By Mamoun Baidoun
Petra

AMMAN — Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh on Saturday described the Jordan Valley region as a greenhouse of nearly 300,000 productive dunums of land producing crops for local consumption and export, but also facing problems that impede development.

Over the past years the Agriculture Ministry has succeeded in settling nearly one quarter of a million people in the valley to produce food and grow fruit trees. But there is still an urgent need to re-examine the valley basin for introducing drastic reforms to maximise the rich land, noted the minister in an exclusive interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The minister noted that the main problem facing the Jordan Valley farmers is not in the surplus of crops but in finding export markets.

Dr. Khasawneh suggested that a cropping pattern system be introduced in the Jordan Valley by persuading local farmers to limit their production of vegetables and increase their production of cereals and fruits such as bananas, grapes and kiwis, for which there is a growing demand and potential for high incomes.

Noting that the elements for production like technology, the land and the markets exist in Jordan, the minister said large scale production of crops in constant need in Jordan and abroad require huge investments which can only come through local credit organisations.

Even if such crops can not be sold abroad, they at least can be bartered for products in demand

in the Kingdom, noted Dr. Khasawneh.

Credit lending institutions in the Kingdom, can also provide up to JD45 million to farmers, but which is short of the JD100 million needed to ensure excellent investment in the land, noted the minister. Dr. Khasawneh said that under the present circumstances, he did not see the feasibility of transforming the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) into a bank. Perhaps this could happen in 20 years, he added.

Referring to the production of tomatoes in the Jordan Valley, the minister said that on average a dunum of land can produce up to 5,000 tonnes of tomatoes annually, but this year each dunum produced 9,000 tonnes, overloading the local market and the processing plants.

Dr. Khasawneh noted that the processing plants are producing 1,200 tonnes of paste and the local market is absorbing 550 tonnes of fresh tomatoes daily. Exports of tomatoes range between 1,000 and 2,000 tonnes a day, leaving an average of almost 3,700 tonnes in daily surplus, causing a sharp decline in prices.

The minister noted that perhaps for the first time Jordan will this year refrain from importing potatoes, onions and garlic — crops that were rare in the past but in abundance this year.

Referring to the marketing of crops abroad, the minister said that the markets in the Gulf states are open for Jordanian crops but the Kingdom should not suffice itself with these traditional markets. Dr. Khasawneh said that studies and practical steps should be taken towards marketing Jordan's produce in such countries like Eastern Europe which can

barter the crops for meat and other markets in Western Europe which are in constant need of vegetable produce.

The minister also criticised the agricultural extension service. He said that the extension staff is responsible for guiding farmers in using modern technology, choosing the most appropriate seeds and plants for their lands, preparing the soil for planting, using fertilisers and combating pests. He said the job is not being done properly largely due to the limited means of the extension staff who can not reach all the fields and are satisfied only by replying to questions raised by farmers about farming-related issues.

Agricultural extension services involve active interaction between the person who guides the farmers and the producers, he added. Dr. Khasawneh said the Ministry of Agriculture has recommended that farmers receive loans to support them over the present difficulties, and at least JD6.25 million have lately been granted to the local farmers.

With regard to greening programmes in Jordan, the minister noted that in accordance with His Majesty King Hussein's directives the government is aiming to green the country by the year 2000. In cooperation with various public and private organisations and the Jordanian armed forces, the Ministry of Agriculture hopes to plant trees on 300,000 dunums of land in a given time over the coming few years, the minister noted.

Planting of fruit as well as forest trees, is a national duty requiring the participation of all citizens of the country, he concluded.

American students gain first-hand experience of Arab culture and history

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of American and Arab-American secondary students have come to Jordan recently as part of a national annual programme to learn first hand Arab culture and history.

Sponsored by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, an educational programme based in Washington D.C., and the American-Arab Anti-Dissemination Committee, the students, mostly aged 16 and 17, will return to the U.S. with altered images and more knowledge of the Middle East.

The group, which consists of three Arab-Americans, were chosen by their own community in the U.S. Once the students were chosen, they were asked to write two essays in order to be approved by the board members of the programme. The first topic was on themselves and the other on U.S.-Arab relations. Thereafter, the approval process is referred to a higher committee.

"The programme began in Egypt and expanded to Jordan," according to Ron Stockton, professor at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. "Now we visit Tunisia, Oman as well as Syria," he added.

Mr. Stockton's visit to the Kingdom this year is his third since 1987. Before the group arrived in Jordan, they spent four days in Washington for an orientation programme. "They heard specialists discussing the Middle East, the Arab World, Jordan, history, tradition and Islam," Mr. Stockton explained.

Each of the students is surprised and everyday they learn more. According to Mr. Stockton, "Many of their images of Jordan have changed very dramatically. For many it is their first visit to the Middle East but none have been to Jordan before."

Some of the students interviewed by the Jordan Times noted that the perception of Arabs in the U.S. is far too stereotyped.

"A lot of people see Jordan as women in veils but I did not notice that. And I expected the land to be more deserty," said Jana Larsen, a 16-year-old student from Idaho.

"It is important to know that America does not talk about foreign governments," said Hassan Shanawani of Syrian decent. "This visit has proved that the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) is not some sort of a military organisation; it has a government and an administration," said the 21-year-old.

The group, which is in Jordan for two weeks, visited Jerash, Petra, and the desert castles. They were received by Her Majesty Queen Noor, and held discussions with Ahmad Al-Lawzi, of the Upper House of Parliament, Abdel Latif Arabiyat, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Leila Sharaf, member of the Upper House of Parliament as well as one of the PLO executive members Asad Abdel Rahman. The group also met with the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Roger Harrison.

"Most of my questions were answered but not to the extent that I would have liked," commented Samir Itari, 16, from Chicago, Illinois, referring to the

discussion with the U.S. ambassador. "I just did not feel content with a lot of the answers, many details were left out. A lot of times in the U.S., the news media would acquire information of the Middle East, but it would be relayed through a certain set of eyes," he added.

Seventeen-year-old Kelly Sternmann from Texas questions U.S. policies. "It is amazing," he said, "The more I learn about it (the situation in Jordan and Israeli-occupied territories) the more I question why the U.S. funds \$4 billion a year to Israel when (Israel) is doing what the Nazis did to the Jews in the Second World War."

"That is basically why we are here," he added. "The whole world distorts facts about Islamic countries and the greater part of Americans do not know about Islam and the Arab countries. There is a stereotype of Arabs in the U.S. and we are here to bring back true facts — undistorted images of Islam and Jordan."

For one thing, the group has 15 months of American media once they are back home in which they will relay what their experiences have been in Jordan to the American public. Another way to change people's attitudes as well as the government's approach, according to Mr. Sternmann, is to attempt to influence voters to think about who they are voting for.

"A big part of people in the U.S. are not pro this or that," he said, "Most of them are ignorant."

"We are going back to help them form (an opinion) more than change one," according to Michel Clark, 17, from Utah.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mohammad Al-Saladawi at Alna Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Nusrallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Judiciary System in Jordan and Democracy" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

Sharif Zeid, U.S. senator discuss regional issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker conferred in his office Saturday with visiting U.S. Senator David Durenberger, currently on a tour of the Middle East.

They reviewed the general situation in the region in the wake of the Gulf crisis and recent world developments in the presence of Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and State Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine.

The Middle East process and the prospects of a just and durable peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions came under review at the meeting held at the Prime Minister's office. Sharif Zeid reiterated Jordan's position of supporting recourse to objective dialogue as a tool for fulfilling the rights of all peoples in the region.

The U.S. senator said that Jordan played a basic and active role

in the region, thanks to the policies of His Majesty King Hussein who, he said, is pursuing efforts to attain security and stability in the region.

At separate meetings, the Speakers of the upper and lower Houses of Parliament Saturday urged the United States to shoulder its responsibilities towards ensuring the success of the Middle East peace process based on U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi reiterated Jordan's firm commitment to the achievement of peace, but noted the intransigent Israeli position which he described as conflicting with the rules of international legitimacy.

Compared to the other nations of the Middle East Region, Jordan is perhaps committed more than any other country to peace

and bears the greatest responsibility in the peace process, Mr. Lawzi said.

In review of the current Israeli oppression of Palestinians and the Israeli-Jewish settlement programmes, Mr. Lawzi said the U.S. administration should exert serious efforts to achieve the aspired peace. Speaker of the Lower House Abdul Latif Arabiyat expressed appreciation of all efforts aiming to attain peace, noting that the U.S., as the world's leading nation, should shoulder its responsibilities towards the well-being of humanity.

Dr. Arabiyat called for further meetings of representatives of the Jordanian and American people in order to discuss ways towards the attainment of the common good for all without "selectivity or distortion of the facts" of various world issues.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker reviews Middle East issues with U.S. senator David Durenberger

Workshop discusses methods to overcome problems of exporting to developed nations

By Cosima Hadidi
Special to the Jordan Times

A workshop held by the Export Trade Services department of the Jordanian Economic Development and Commercial Centres Corporation brought together about 60 representatives of local engineering and mechanical equipment manufacturing companies Saturday. Participants discussed problems faced by the sector and met with U.S. experts to discuss their individual concerns and ways of exporting their products.

Any manufacturing company in a developing country that wants to export to a developed country needs to be competitive in price, quality, volume capacity and delivery. "If the manufacturer lacks anyone of those, he stands no chance in a highly competitive market," said Spencer King, project director of ETS.

He added that consumers in developed nations are not likely to buy unfamiliar products. "First you have to give them something they need, once that product has been established, you can present them with a new product."

ETS is currently conducting a comprehensive assessment of the Jordanian engineering and

mechanical production sector, after which it will host experts from international engineering consultancy agencies for a year, to assist the manufacturers with specific problems.

Farouq Hadidi, director of the export promotion department, said that ETS aims to find products that will sell in foreign markets and then figure out ways of how to penetrate the market. Among other services, ETS helps manufacturers with production, packaging, marketing and brings in importers from abroad for direct producer/exporter negotiations.

ETS has many success stories to tell, among its most recent one is assisting Jordanian marble tile manufacturers to reach international markets.

"Several countries of the region, such as Greece, Turkey and Lebanon have been exporting marble to the United States for quite a while," said Naif Stetieh, export specialist. "Jordanian marble tile is of the same quality as that of those countries and often has better finishing, so we thought we should try to export it as well."

However, when ETS first approached the U.S. marble importer association, the head of that association refused to deal with Jordan, saying he considered

it to be "the enemy," said Mr. King.

"We did not let that stop us, but decided to go for it head-on and helped five Jordanian marble producers to participate in an international marble show in Chicago," he said.

This was the first time Jordanian marble producers participated in such a show and it turned out to be a great success, said Mr. Stetieh.

"Over 600 attendees visited our booth and were surprised to see the high quality of the Jordanian product. The two leading tile magazines of the world featured articles on the Jordanian marble tile, and we have managed to sell two container-loads already," he said.

Mr. Stetieh said that Jordan is lucky because the demand in the U.S. market for the next four years is for limestone, or desert marble, of which Jordan has a surplus.

"U.S. marble importers are going to come to Jordan later on this year to inspect the factories and to form joint ventures for export. The manufacturers are very excited about these prospects and have already registered to attend the next major marble exhibition in Florida next year," he said.

Hindawi slams news report — 10's not 1000's of teachers to retire

AMMAN (J.T.) — Men and Women teachers in government schools who completed 30 and 25 years of active service respectively will be retired this year, provided they have passed the age of 55, Deputy Premier and Education Minister Thougan Hindawi said in a statement Saturday.

These teachers number in the tens, not in the thousands, as mentioned by a local Jordanian daily in its Friday issue, said the Minister in his statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that these teachers have offered good service to the country and its growing generations and for this they deserve appreciation; they have the right to have their requests for retirement answered, he added.

The newspaper report had said that 2,750 men and women are to be retired in the course of a general overhaul and reshuffling of positions at the Ministry of Education.

The ministry each year conducts normal procedures and undertakes arrangements that are seen fit to meet the pressing needs and absorbs the returning teachers from Arab countries where they had been serving under a secondment agreement with Jordan, noted the ministry.



Thougan Hindawi

Referring to the local daily report Friday, the minister said it was inaccurate and bias and did not reflect the truth about the ministry's plans and procedures, which are normally taken ahead of each school year.

The Ministry of Education, Mr. Hindawi noted, is currently in the process of preparing schools and teachers for the coming scholastic year starting next

month. Government schools are also making arrangements for absorbing returning expatriate children, something which requires some changes and special arrangements, he added.

Earlier this week, the director of general education at the ministry, Thougan Obaidat, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra that so far government schools have absorbed 63,119 students returning here from Kuwait and other Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The government has issued instructions to all education departments and schools to take any number of returnees, forcing several schools to transform libraries, even laboratories, into classrooms to cope with the additional number of students, said Dr. Obaidat.

In the course of implementing the 1987 National Education conference resolutions, the ministry has made plans to build 430 schools for primary, preparatory and secondary education, according to another official.

He said that apart from the school buildings, the conference's recommendations and resolutions call for the upgrading of school textbooks, and giving advanced training to teachers.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Strong recovery under adjustment

The economic adjustment programme adopted by Jordan is only six months old. Passing a judgement on the outcome is premature. However, the clear-cut improvement demonstrated recently by the economy was so strong that it cannot be ignored or doubted.

Of course the strong recovery of most economic activities is not simply a product of the policies and measures taken so far under the programme. Such effects are hard to measure at this early stage in the implementation process of a seven-year programme. It is therefore assumed that the improvement can be attributed only to the confidence of the private sector that the government is serious about economic reform and that the programme is actually meant for implementation and not only for external consumption by international institutions, and that behind the programme there is a strong conviction and not simply obedience or submission or dependency. The private sector became convinced that the government means business and that the programme is strongly supported by the King, no less.

The adoption of the structural economic adjustment programme, and the firm commitment to adhere to its terms and conditions, created an atmosphere of public confidence within business circles. It reduced the air of uncertainty which had

prevailed, and achieved a measure of stability and certainty. Thus the positive results started to appear in a fast manner, that exceeded the most optimistic expectations.

The reserves in foreign exchange of the country in general, and the Central Bank in particular reached a record. After rescheduling, the burden of external debt service was no longer blocking the path of growth and development.

Beside this jump which surpassed the targets of the planners regarding the Central Bank activity, the availability of foreign exchange, and the convincing stability of the Jordanian dinar, Jordan witnessed a similar jump in the performance of the Ministry of Finance and the budget. For the first time in Jordan's modern history, the domestic revenue is now exceeding 100 per cent of the recurring expenditure of the government. This is a milestone in the march to fiscal self-sufficiency that was thought to be too difficult to achieve.

New investments, on the other hand, exceeded by far, the volume of investments which was achieved in any of the golden years of prosperity and development plans during the seventies and early eighties. Most likely, new investments will pass the mark of one billion Jordanian dinars in 1992, including JD700 million in construction and housing alone, which is a record. What

makes investment even more important is the fact that it no more depends solely on imports, as was the case. Domestic production is contributing a high share, especially in the construction and housing sector, an activity that is known for the ability to create many jobs and initiated primarily and secondary flows of income.

Unemployment is admittedly still high, yet there are signs that it is no more on the rise since the autumn of 1991, and it may be falling as of the spring of 1992.

Some Jordanian analysts are worried that the improvement in the Jordanian economy may cause a decline in foreign aid. This is wrong. The excellent results and the efficient utilisation of foreign aid in a fruitful manner should encourage donors to give Jordan more.

Others worry that the substantial improvement in the national economy may reduce the sense of urgency in the adherence to the economic adjustment programme, because the pressure to reform may decline. This would not only be a total mistake, it would be a sin that no responsible government should commit. On the contrary, the success should lead to more confidence in the adjustment programme, and more commitment to reform, not to a relaxation of the drive.

By Dr. Fahd Al Fanek

Third World needs to assert itself

COMING AS it did on the heels of the G-7 summit at Munich last week, the Helsinki summit was another effort by Western countries to leave a deeper imprint not only on European affairs but also on international conflicts as well. But unlike the Munich Summit, where European states spearheaded by France attempted to dominate the Western initiatives to settle European and other regional disputes but failed due to the dominance of the U.S., the Helsinki conference afforded the European countries a greater say on the turn of events especially over the situation in Yugoslavia and the ethnic conflicts in the former Soviet Union.

The silent competition between Washington and notably Paris over control of international and European issues, be they over international trade as exemplified by the GATT negotiations or political conflicts such as the armed conflict in Bosnia and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, especially between Armenia and Azerbaijan, has been simmering for some time now with many European capitals voicing concern at the American hegemony over world affairs. What ensued from this brewing conflict in perspective and orientation between Washington and Paris in particular was a growing conflict of interest between the U.S. and Europe ever since the ending of the Gulf conflict and the rise of the U.S. as the only superpower on the international scene. France never did stomach American dominance and voiced even greater resentment over the increase in Washington's international powers when Moscow ceased suddenly to be a second superpower playing the role of counter weight to Washington.

But this inner Western competition does not alleviate the pressure on the rest of the countries of the world, including the Arab states. The overall picture remains one of greater efforts by the expanded West to exercise greater hegemony over regional conflicts and disputes that fall outside the immediate concern of the Western states. So what the Munich and Helsinki summits decide will have a greater than ever bearing on the developing countries, including, of course, the Arab countries caught by the grip of continuing division and disarray. It is regrettable, therefore, that the Arab League did not make stronger effort to be heard at the Helsinki summit even in the capacity of an observer regional organisation. By leaving all international decisions in the hands of the West, the rest of the world would, by default, leave its fate in the hands of a select capitals dominated by Western interest.

That is why the non Western regional organisations need to exercise additional control over their destinies and interests by regrouping on stronger and more meaningful basis. The Non-Aligned Movement is particularly called upon to restructure itself with such objectives in mind. Not much can be expected from the Organisation of Islamic Countries as its foundation is archaic per se. That leaves the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement, as the only remaining regional organisations that have the potential to exercise some measure of control in ensuring Arab and Third World interests. Both clubs stand to learn a great deal from the G-7 and Helsinki summits and have a cause to draw the necessary conclusions from their achievements. Otherwise the non Western world will be further marginalised.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA' daily Saturday welcomed the reported agreement between Fatah and Hamas to end the fighting between them in the occupied Arab lands noting that the agreement was bound to bolster internal unity. What is needed urgently now is a commitment by word and deed on the part of the two parties to abide by the provisions of the agreement so as to abort any move on the part of the Israeli authorities to draw a wedge between the Palestinian groups, said the daily. It said that the agreement is, of course, not to the benefit of the Israelis who see in it a step towards strengthening the hand of the intifada and boosting the Palestinian national morale. The Israelis had hoped that the infighting between the Palestinian brothers, involved in a bloody uprising against the occupation authorities to achieve liberation, would destroy the intifada and force the Palestinians to capitulate, said the daily. Not only will such an agreement boost the intifada, it would also serve as a catalyst to unite all factions within the Palestinian resistance which is designed to end occupation, said the paper. Cohesion among the Palestinian people and its various factions can only lend further strength to the masses who are struggling for freedom, the paper added. The paper urged Fatah and Hamas to opt for dialogue in all their disputes and avoid a confrontation that can only benefit the Israeli enemy and achieve Israel's objectives.

IT SEEMS that the U.S. president is trying to appease the Jewish organisations in the United States and to win their support in his current drive to be reelected by openly supporting the new Israeli government, said Sawt Al Shaab daily Saturday. As soon as the results of the Israeli elections were known, President Bush heaped praise on the Labour Party and its leader Yitzhak Rabin; this welcome is now being translated into open support for the Israelis at the expense of the Arab rights, said the daily. The paper added that the American administration's open declaration that it is now ready to consider Israel's loan guarantees request is only one sign of the Bush administration's change of heart with regard to the Jewish settlement issue. What is feared by the Arabs now, said the daily, is to see Washington openly exercising pressure on the Arab parties in the peace process rather than directing its attention towards forcing the Israelis to comply with the international legality and the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, continued the paper. It said that the Arab countries involved in the peace process sponsored by the United States should watch the situation carefully and take concerted steps that would abort Rabin's intentions and ensure an end to the settlement programmes as a prelude to achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace.

Yitzhak Rabin — peace-maker or myth-maker?

By Mark Power - Stevens

THE election of Yitzhak Rabin and the Labour Party in Israel's recent election has been met with a mixture of relief and elation by the international community. Mr. Rabin has made it clear that he wants his coalition to include religious and right-wing elements alongside Labour and Meretz. He has also made it clear that it will be his coalition that will follow his dictates, and closer scrutiny of Mr. Rabin's position indicates that it is far from meeting the minimum demands of both the Palestinians and U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Rabin's election campaign was based on two basic premises: support for the peace process leading to Palestinian autonomy and withdrawal of support for "political settlements" in Palestinian population centres. Internationally, and particularly in the U.S., this position is viewed as conciliatory and as the basis for advancement in the peace process.

The overriding factor determining Mr. Rabin's vision for the territories is Israel's security needs. As such, those settlements which are deemed to be serving that security, in the Jordan Valley, on the Golan Heights and on the eastern slopes of the West Bank are to be maintained. Thus Rabin envisages supporting and securing a Jewish presence in the occupied territories at the same time as advocating Palestinian autonomy. This may constitute a rejection of Mr. Shamir's drive to establish "Greater Israel" and a rejection of Sharon's settlement plans, but in effect it is only a return to the earlier "cantonisation" plan which rising Likud star Benjamin Netanyahu characterised as a "sea of Israeli security with Arab autonomy pockets inside it."

Such a proposal also raises the issue of Jewish settlers living under Palestinian jurisdiction. Settler leader Rabbi Levinger has stated his intent to oppose

Palestinian autonomy and a leading settler activist, Benny Katzover, recently stated: "We will do everything in our ability, including physical acts, so that (Palestinian) council cannot impose itself on us." And the new Israeli law, passed after Mr. Rabin came to power, which affords Israeli citizens wide ranging rights in using their guns against attacks, including stone throwers, without fear of punishment, only serves to strengthen the settlers' determination to oppose Palestinian autonomy, and further compromise Mr. Rabin's vision.

Jerusalem, Mr. Rabin has stated, will remain the undivided capital of Israel, and the solid belt of fortress settlements, home to over 135,000 Israelis, which surround Jerusalem and which dominate the heart of the West Bank, are to remain under Israel's control. There are no dissenting voices in the Israeli political mainstream with regard to Jerusalem. Even Meretz, which supports the establishment

of a Palestinian state, stated that Jerusalem is Israel's capital and will never again be divided.

Thus Mr. Rabin proposes that the majority of Jewish settlers in the occupied territories are to remain in place, in settlements which are all illegal in international law, no matter what their classification. And the West Bank, which constitutes less than twenty per cent of Mandatory Palestine, is to undergo a territorial compromise which leaves the Palestinians with little productive land and a paucity of resources. This would make the Palestinians' task of state-building all the harder.

Such an outcome would serve both Mr. Rabin's preference for the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian political entity, and his rejection of a Palestinian state.

The election of Mr. Rabin, and the international perception that now Israel wants peace, are dangerous developments for the

Palestinians. Whilst it is of course very important that the peace process moves forward and Palestinians cease to be killed and maimed, it is also important to remember the ideals that thousands have already died for. One is left to wonder whether accepting an, as yet, undefined notion of limited autonomy in an, as yet, undefined portion of the occupied territories, comes anywhere close to satisfying the wants and needs of the Palestinian population living under occupation.

The Palestinians, and the Arab parties to the peace process, need to beware the switching of pressure from Israel onto the Palestinians and Arabs in an effort to make them meet Mr. Rabin's "concessions." Especially if one bears in mind that the granting of financial guarantees to Israel by the U.S. is now more likely, and this will enable Israel to placate many elements in its society and thus hold-out if there is an impasse in negotiations.

The election of a party in Israel which seems to actively want to participate in the peace process and which appears to actively want to pursue a solution to the conflict is a welcome development. But the terms of such a solution need to satisfy all parties for that solution to be just and therefore effective. At present Mr. Rabin seems only willing to "compromise" with the land which Israel is illegally occupying. The land and people of the West Bank and Gaza cannot sustain another territorial compromise, and in terms of justice and law should not be asked to.

Those expressing extreme optimism over the election of Mr. Rabin should beware the light at the end of the tunnel, for it may be a train.

The writer, a Masters graduate in Middle Eastern studies, is currently working in Amman.

CSCE may find little peace to keep

By Patrick Worsnip
 Reuter

HELSINKI — The European Security Conference has come of age with a charter as a regional organisation, but its new powers risk creating just another peacekeeping body in a world with precious little peace to keep. Viewed by some as the great hope for a continent long divided into hostile ideological camps, the 52-nation grouping remains shackled by what ought to be its chief strength — its all-embracing membership.

To do anything, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) needs almost unanimous agreement — hard enough among the western powers, harder still with the often fractious nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"The CSCE can mainly be active in anticipating and heading off conflicts. It cannot go around putting out fires once they are ignited," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said.

On Friday, the 20-year-old CSCE adopted a lengthy new statute that for the first time will allow it to mount peacekeeping missions to the continent's growing list of ethnic trouble spots. It can call on forces from NATO, the nine-nation western European union defence grouping, or even the Commonwealth of Independent States. But it has no enforcement powers and needs the agreement of the conflicting parties to start work at all.

As CSCE leaders clinked champagne glasses to toast the transformation of the group, two decades an arena for sterile East-West wrangling over human rights, the new mechanism was struggling to get into even first gear.

Senior officials failed to agree on a plan to send 100 unarmed observers to the disputed Caucasian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, where up to 2,000 people have died in four years of vicious fighting between Azeris and Armenians.

The test is a crucial one for the CSCE, which has staked much of its new-found prestige on a plan to bring the Karabakh combatants to a peace conference in the Belarus capital of Minsk. There is still no date for the conference.

Nor could the officials agree to send a mission to another embattled region of the former Soviet Union, Moldova.

And a statement condemning the rump Yugoslavia — already temporarily suspended from the CSCE — over its role in the war in Bosnia was adopted only after the haggling officials gave up work on a draft and allowed their leaders to pass it.

CSCE procedures were made to look particularly clumsy when the comparatively lean and mean western groupings, the Western European Union (WEU) and NATO, decided in the corridors of the Helsinki conference to set up naval monitoring of United Nations sanctions on Serbia.

But officials argued that their action was only possible because of the political umbrella provided by the CSCE.

The argument fits in with the concept of those like British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd who see the CSCE as an "enabling" organisation which can subcontract actions on the ground to

bodies with a more effective structure.

The idea would make some sense of a situation where not just the CSCE, NATO and the WEU, but the European Community, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the U.N. are all in the peacekeeping business — so far to little effect in places like Bosnia.

For the East European and ex-Soviet states, the CSCE remains the best hope of a security shield in the vacuum left by the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, even though many would ideally like to join NATO or the EC.

Issuing dire warnings about the risks of explosive conflicts much worse than anything seen during the stand-off of the cold war, leaders like Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel called for CSCE mechanisms to be strengthened still further.

Russian President Boris Yel-

sin went so far as to call for a European rapid reaction force to prevent what he called "aggressive nationalism" becoming "the real plague of the 21st century."

Speakers from several nations showed a stirring faith in the ability of an omnipotent CSCE to step in and sort out the rash of local wars bursting out across Europe.

"The choice we face is clear," said Cyprus President George Vassiliou. "Either we establish an efficient collective security system... or we will end up in a new system of balance of power through aggressive alliances that will contain in itself the germ of new wars."

As the Helsinki conference closed, the question remained whether such a system could gradually take shape, or whether the principle of "not in my back yard" would prove the epitaph of the CSCE.

The curse of nations

By Leslie H. Gelb

AROUND 1776, there were about 35 empires, kingdoms, countries and states in the world. By World War II the number had doubled to roughly 70. And that figure almost doubled again to more than 130 in the late 1960s. Today some 190 entities are generally recognised as sovereign nation-states.

It is debatable whether these new entities have behaved better than the cruel and distant empires they displaced. Most nation-states, in any event, have been a curse — to their own people, especially to minorities, and to each other. For the most part, they have oppressed their citizens and preyed on their neighbours.

The main problem with almost all modern states is that they were founded on principles of exclusion — nationality, religion, culture and language. The United States, which cut the path to national self-determination and statehood with its Declaration of Independence, promised much better.

The state that sprang from this document was to be a vessel for representative government and protection of individual rights, not a vehicle for race and religion. With notable and awful exceptions, America has mostly lived up to these aspirations and acted mostly as a peace-loving nation.

Until other nation-states strike a better balance between the reasons for statehood and the rights of individuals, national self-determination will remain more a curse than a blessing. At first, the new nation-states seemed as if they would be a blessing. National self-determination appeared to be the first claim of those seeking individual liberties and popular sovereignty in 1776. The French revolutionaries in 1789 wanted to transform France into a pedestal for liberty, equality and fraternity. The liberals who ignited the revolutions of 1848 also dreamed about realising liberties through new nation-states.

Napoleon was quick to appreciate the awesome power of nationalism, of democratic borders, to make war. He did so triumphantly until he overextended himself — and until others also learned to harness patriotism. Conservatives, however, soon learned to separate nationalistic fervor from national self-determination and to bind the

power of nationalism to the ambitions of their states and dynasties. Liberals nonetheless continued to pray for national independence. They equated liberty for the individual with liberty for nationalities. They also believed that if each nationality had its own state, then all would be satisfied and live in peace. Woodrow Wilson put those principles into practice in the 1919 Versailles Treaty. But many of the new states that resulted from the treaty honoured neither liberty at home nor peace abroad.

Yet Americans in particular would not abandon the theory. After World War II, Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman compelled the European empires to shed their worldwide colonies. The two presidents believed that by eliminating empires, they would eliminate the main cause of wars.

But again, the new small nation-states proved no more democratic or peaceful than the old empires. Indeed, the number of wars, civil and international, has probably averaged several dozen per year for the last 30 years. And very few of these ex-colonies became constitutional democracies. Hope, however, surged again in the last few years as the Soviet empire collapsed and after its constituent national parts pledged themselves to free elections.

Philosophical liberals deluded themselves once more into thinking that national independence and individual liberties could be easily reconciled, this time by "free elections." And this time, conservatives joined them in the self-deception. Elections did not improve matters in most places. Instead, they gave legitimacy to power-wielders without adding protections for individual rights, whether for minorities or even majorities.

It is past time for Americans and others to abandon the worship of national self-determination, the belief in the unity of national self-determination and individual liberty, and the fascination with elections as a cure-all. The signers of the Declaration in 1776 understood that personal freedom and rights were more important than national independence and were indeed the purpose of independence — and that individual liberties and rights were the much harder of the two dreams to realise — The New York Times.



Choice of Gore shows Democrats' focus on the south

By Irwin Arief
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton's selection of Tennessee Senator Albert Gore as his running mate telegraphs the Democrats' focus on the South as the key battleground in the U.S. presidential campaign.

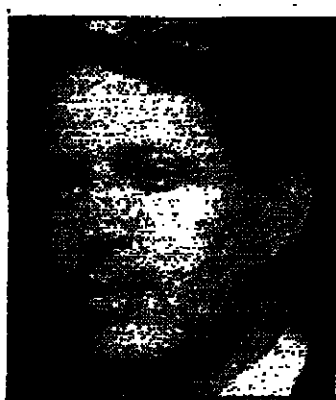
Equally important, Mr. Gore's choice shows the Clinton camp wants to go head-to-head with President George Bush's running mate, Vice President Dan Quayle, on the issues of family values and military service.

All three of the major players in the presidential campaign — Democrat Clinton, Republican Bush, and likely independent contender Ross Perot — claim a southern heritage though Texas is New Englander Bush's adopted home.

The last Democrat to win the White House, Georgian Jimmy Carter in 1976, did so on the strength of southern support.

The American south was a Democratic bastion for a century after the 1861-65 civil war, when it tried to break away from the rest of the United States over the enslavement of blacks.

The largely conservative region has tended to vote as a bloc, making it a prize for presidential



Albert Gore

candidates. It has voted heavily Republican in the last three elections, helping elect Ronald Reagan and Mr. Bush.

Early in the campaign for the November election, Mr. Clinton had hoped he, too, would prove strongest in his native region.

However, recent polls show Mr. Perot and Mr. Bush both doing better than Mr. Clinton in the southern states. Polls published on Thursday in the Charlotte Observer newspaper showed Mr. Bush leading Mr. Perot in North and South Carolina with Mr. Clinton in third place.

"It's a double dose of white southerners at the top of the

ticket. They must really feel they have to make a breakthrough in the south and neutralise the modern Republican advantage in the region. It's almost an admission that Clinton isn't strong enough to do it on his own," said Merle Black, an expert on southern strategy at Atlanta's Emory University.

"This is the raging moderate ticket, the southern yuppie middle-class suburban ticket. From outside the south, people may find it hard to tell Clinton and Gore apart," Mr. Black said.

Mr. Quayle must certainly be worried by the inevitable coming comparisons of the two vice presidential contenders.

Both men are young and handsome and have articulate wives and photogenic families.

But the Harvard-educated Gore is a strong debater and widely viewed as highly intelligent while Mr. Quayle is a wooden speaker caricatured as a dim bulb.

And while the hawkish Quayle sat out the Vietnam war in the stateside haven of the National Guard, Mr. Gore was drafted and saw combat in Vietnam.

The words "Vietnam" and "Harvard" should scare the bejezus out of Dan Quayle," said commentator Chris Matthews. "With a contest between Gore

and Quayle, it really isn't a contest. Gore wins hands down," said Nathan Landow, chairman of the Maryland Democratic Party and a key party fund raiser.

Mr. Quayle has boasted of being Mr. Bush's "pit bull" in the pre-convention period, going after both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Perot while Mr. Bush pursues a "rose garden strategy," trying to appear "presidential" and above the fray.

Mr. Quayle has been pounding away at the "cultural elite" in the media and Hollywood to press the Republicans' case that their party is the part of "family values."

Behind the attacks is the perceived weakness on that issue of Mr. Clinton, who has acknowledged marital troubles but denied accusations of adulterous affairs.

But Mr. Gore, wife Tipper and their four children are in a strong position to defuse the issue.

Mr. Gore is untainted by any whiff of sexual peccadilloes and has fought hard on issues such as a tax credit for the children of working families.

Tipper Gore has warmed many parents' hearts — but angered rock-and-rollers — with her dogged pursuit of warning labels on popular music recordings to warn of obscene lyrics.

Palestinian leader welcomes pact

(Continued from page 1)

union among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and everywhere. "Hamas, Fatah and the other parties agreed to transmit the good news to our people to urge them to fulfil the document," it said.

"If this agreement does not hold, it will reduce our credibility as negotiators a great deal," Dr. Abdul Shafi was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. "I would feel our feet are not on the ground."

Observers noted that ending inter-Palestinian violence in the occupied territories and presenting a united Palestinian front were an essential component in the peace talks since Palestinian differences were always vulnerable to be exploited by Israel.

Inter-Palestinian violence, mainly between Fatah, the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) group, and Hamas, which opposes peace talks with Israel, had escalated against the backdrop of the election victory of Israel's Labour Party, seen as relatively moderate and leaning towards a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians.

PLO leaders have said that Hamas was worried that prospects for peace with a territorial compromise had been boosted with the Labour victory.

While Fatah is committed to a negotiated solution with Israel, Hamas, an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, rejects any dealings with or recognition of the Jewish state and calls for the "total liberation of Palestine."

Saji Salameh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) expressed hope that the Fatah-Hamas accord would pave the way for settling all differences among Palestinian groups.

"We believe that all differences, political and otherwise, should be solved through democratic dialogue," Mr. Salameh told the Jordan Times. "We hope that both sides (Fatah and Hamas) would remain committed to the agreement, which, hopefully, would also pave the way for

dialogue among all Palestinian groups and increased resistance against Israel."

No comment was immediately available from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which opposes the peace process on the ground that the negotiating terms available to the Palestinians are not favourable to the Palestinian cause. But Hamas sources told the Jordan Times that the PFLP had played a "positive role" in working out Friday's Fatah-Hamas agreement.

Columbians in Jordanian newspapers as well as dailies based in the occupied territories have been calling on the warring groups to end their violent hostilities and seek to settle their differences.

Assad Abdul Rahman, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), appeared to summarise the approach in a column in Saturday's Al Dustour. Dr. Abdul Rahman said that all Palestinian factions, regardless of their political or ideological leanings, had a responsibility towards ending factional disputes for the sake of the Palestinian people. The leaders of the various factions should shoulder the blame for the problem in the same way they are taking credit for the gains of the 55-month-old intifada, he wrote.

U.N. team leader leaves Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Video shows crop-burning

Iraq on Friday showed a grainy videotape it said showed U.S. and British warplanes dropping flares to set fire to Iraqi croplands and protested to the Security Council.

"This is part of a Western destabilisation campaign and part of the continuing intimidation of Iraq's civilian population," said Iraq's acting U.N. ambassador, Samir K.K. Al-Nima. "It's part of an effort to overthrow the government."

Iraq previously has levelled the charges, which have been denied by the U.S. and British governments.

Mr. Nima told a news conference at the U.N. that he presented the videotape to the president of the Security Council, Ambassador Jose Luis Jesus of Cape Verde. Mr. Jesus said U.S. and British envoys have denied any effort to burn croplands and said that no council member has asked to see it.

He showed it at a news conference.

The tape, lasting about five minutes, shows what seem to be Western aircraft identified by a voice on the film as an F-16 and a

British Jaguar. They are releasing light-coloured objects, identified as flares, but the film did not show any actual fires started when the objects struck the ground.

It showed burned cropland and people trying to beat out flames. Mr. Nima said more than 31 cases of crop burning occurred from May 27, including a case two days ago. Most took place in Mosul, about 360 kilometres north of Baghdad. He said more than 11,000 acres were burned and 7,000 tonnes of grain, mostly wheat and barley, were destroyed.

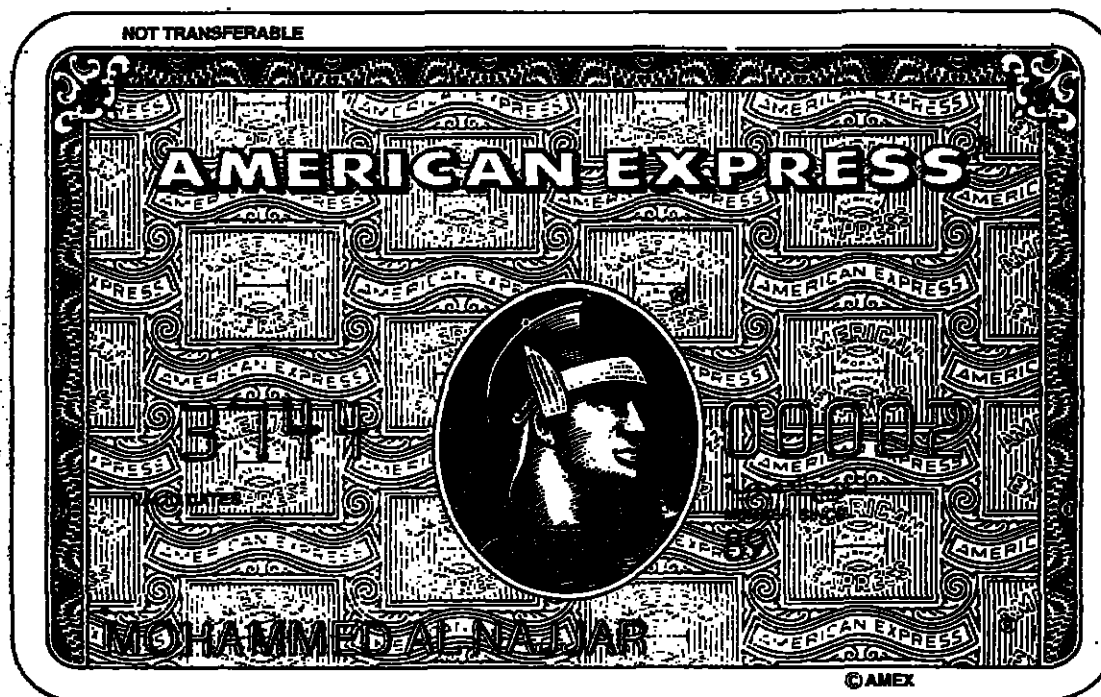
On another front, Iraq said Saturday it was not responsible for the safety of U.N. guards stationed in the Kurdish rebel-controlled region of northern Iraq.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali called on Iraq on Thursday to provide protection after the wounding of two Austrian U.N. guards the previous night.

The two were hurt when a grenade was tossed into the garden of a house where they were staying in the city of Erbil about 335 kilometres north of Baghdad.

The Iraqi News Agency, said Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Al Khudayer described Dr. Ghali's request as "surprising."

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Cards

U.N. sets Sarajevo fallout

(Continued from page 1)

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cerin was able to fly in for talks with Bosnian leaders. No details of his visit were known.

Battles between Bosnia's minority Serbs and allied Muslim and Croat forces raged in the north, east and northwest of the former Yugoslav republic.

Sarajevo radio said at least 28 people had been killed and 181

wounded in the last 24 hours of fighting, but it estimated the total toll was much higher.

U.N. commanders said their installations are falling victim to "incidental" shelling from fierce fighting between the Bosnian defenders and Serb irregulars, who oppose Bosnia's secession from Yugoslavia.

Four mortar rounds hit 100 metres south of the U.N. command post overnight, spraying it

with debris, and stray bullets went through a window, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said. Three more rounds landed in the Canadian peacekeepers' camp, one on the quartermaster's store.

There were no injuries, and Mr. Eckhard said it was not known who fired. Canadian commander Michel Jones was to meet with both sides Saturday.

Warfare in contested zones outside of Sarajevo also impeded the U.N. effort. A convoy of 32 empty supply trucks and 73 lightly armed soldiers has been

stranded for four days in the hills en route from the capital to Zagreb, in neighbouring Croatia.

About 50 kilometres from Sarajevo, the convoy found the road ahead mined. When they tried to return, the road had been mined behind them.

"They went to the right and there were mines," said Mr. Eckhard. "They went to the left, and there were mines."

The convoy — now low on fuel — was trying to return to Sarajevo on a main road Saturday, the U.N. said.

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Mubarak, Sharaa

(Continued from page 1)

peace talks and has promised autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza within one year of his taking office.

The Egyptian officials said Syria was considering inviting Egypt and Morocco to the Damascus strategy talks although they are not participants in the bilateral peace negotiations.

Egypt signed a U.S.-mediated peace treaty with Israel in 1979, becoming the first Arab country to do so.

Although Morocco, as member of the Arab League, is technically an enemy of Israel, King Hassan has been softer on the Jewish state than most Arab leaders. He had secret contacts with Israeli officials in the 1970s and received openly in 1986 Shimon Peres, then Israel's prime minister.

Israeli Radio reported that Israeli Interior Minister Aryeh Deri flew to Morocco Friday for talks with King Hassan. Mr. Deri's aides would neither confirm nor deny the trip.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was in Cairo on Saturday to attend the annual meeting of the Palestine Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation.

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Protest disrupts Pieterse return to British track

LONDON (AP) — An anti-apartheid demonstration marred the return of South African runner Zola Pieterse before Britain's Colin Jackson ran the fastest 110-metre hurdles in the world this year at the TSB Grand Prix meet.

Jackson's time of 13.06 seconds in the high hurdles was the fifth-fastest ever and was a new European, Commonwealth and British all-comers record.

The capacity crowd of 17,000 at first thought Jackson set a new world record as the electronic timing system in the Crystal Palace track showed 12.83 — which would have bettered the United States' Roger Kingdom's 1989 record of 12.92.

But Jackson and Tony Dees of the United States dipped at the line and passed under the electronic beam triggering the timing device. Track officials said the computerized system occasionally malfunctioned under similar circumstances.

Dees equalled his previous best of the year with a 13.08. Jack Pierce, another U.S. Olympic team member, was third in 13.17.

The meet was briefly interrupted when three men and three women ran onto the track during a 2,000-metre race featuring Pieterse against Britain's 3,000-metre Olympic hopeful Yvonne Murray.

Security officials and police grabbed the three men and three women before they were able to interfere with the race, eventually won by Murray after Pieterse pulled out 250 metres from the finish.

Bryan Stoddart, deputy managing director of Crystal Palace, said organisers had received a warning before the TSB Grand Prix track and field meet from the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group.

"We had extra staff in the area where we expected them to come from and that proved right," Mr. Stoddart said. "They were escorted out of the ground and the police will probably ask us whether we wish to press charges. That is something we will have to consider."

Pieterse, formerly Zola Budd, became a British citizen in 1984 in order to compete in the Los Angeles Olympic Games. She was to have raced America's Mary Slaney Friday, eight years after they clashed in the 3,000-metre Olympic final, but Slaney withdrew Thursday with a virus.

Anti-apartheid protests interrupted several track meets involving Budd in Britain in the mid-1980s, eventually bounding her back to South Africa.

Meanwhile, American 200-metre Olympic runner Michael

Johnson matched ninth-fastest 400-metre of all time, running a 43.98 lap to edge out U.S. Olympic 400-metre team-member Steve Lewis in 44.55.

Johnson's time was a new British all-comers' record and the third-fastest 400-metres this year. Only Americans Danny Everett and Quincy Watts have run faster — both at the U.S. Olympics track trials in New Orleans.

"I'm the best in the world at both (the 200 and 400), but just because I'm running in the Olympic 200 and not the 400, I can't just leave it alone," Johnson said. "I chose not to run the 400 in the U.S. trials or the games but I can't leave those other guys alone."

David Patrick, a surprise late entry for the TSB track meet, ran the third fastest 400-metre hurdles this year in 48.16 seconds to defeat Britain's Kris Akabusi, who ran 48.26.

Patrick ran 48.01 in finishing second to Kevin Young in the U.S. track trials. Young, current leader of the Mobil Grand Prix standings, ran 47.89 in New Orleans.

American Patrice Plumer held off a fast finishing Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland to win the women's 3,000-metre in 8:42.52. Plumer led the field with Britain's Liz McColgan for the entire race, but



Zola Pieterse

both front-runners tired in the final 200 metres.

Plumer edged O'Sullivan by just six hundredths of a second. "I was dying at the end," Plumer said. "I had to run at the front all the time, but I just wanted to go out fast. That's what I'll aim for at the Olympics but I won't be setting the pace there, hopefully there will be other people to do some of the work."

Mansell secures 25th career pole position

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — World championship leader Nigel Mansell claimed the 25th pole position of his career and his eighth in nine Grands Prix this year with the minimum of fuss Saturday.

In wet conditions which turned final qualifying for Sunday's British Grand Prix into a purely academic affair, the 38-year-old Englishman was able to fine tune his Williams car for what is expected to be a wet race.

Mansell was safe in the knowledge that no-one, least of all his own Williams team mate and closest championship rival Riccardo Patrese of Italy, would be able to improve on the times they set in opening qualifying Friday.

Patrese, who is 32 points behind Mansell in the championship and was 1.9 seconds slower Friday, suffered a big accident in Saturday morning's free session when he collided with Frenchman Eric Comas's Ligier.

Both drivers escaped without serious injury but only Patrese took part in the afternoon session. Comas missed out with a badly bruised right leg.

The outcome of the session was that Friday's times produced the starting grid with Patrese, whose Williams FW18B was written off in Saturday's accident, set to start alongside Mansell on the front row.

Defending world champion Ayrton Senna, in a McLaren, will start from third place, sharing the second row with German Michael Schumacher in a Benetton, ahead of his McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger of Austria and Briton Martin Brundle in the second Benetton.

For Mansell it was a day of

mixed emotions. His joy at taking pole and setting himself up for a British record 28th Grand Prix win — overtaking the record of 27 wins he shares with Jackie Stewart after winning in France last week — was reduced by concern over Patrese's morning accident.

"I am happy and unhappy because we have had a car written off and he has to have a new car built up tonight," Mansell said. "It was just the way the dice rolled," Mansell added. "It was not Riccardo's fault or the team's. He seemed pretty annoyed about it and quite rightly by all accounts."

"But it has given us a problem because I had to prepare my wet weather set-up with only one car just in case it continues to rain tomorrow."

"It was pretty blustery today, with the wind gusting strongly on the run down to stone. There was also a lot of dust and dirt on the track at dusk and I would say the circuit was slower than it was yesterday."

Mansell said that he had felt inspired Friday. "It was the first day of Silverstone, my home Grand Prix, and I was fully committed. Today it was slower and I felt the aches and pains and I just wasn't able to go so fast in the conditions."

Mansell's 25th pole moved with clear of a group of men with whom he had shared 24 poles and left him with only three drivers ahead in terms of pole achievements.

They are Senna, with 61, Briton Jim Clark, who took 33 and Argentine Juan-Manuel Fangio who had 28.

Delion wins 7th stage in Tour De France

VALKENBURG, Netherlands (R) — Frenchman Gilles Delion of France won the seventh stage of the Tour De France Saturday but the day belonged emphatically to the 1987 champion Stephen Roche of Ireland.

Roche bore the brunt of the pacemaking in a breakaway group of four riders in the 196-km stage from Brussels and came in second, in the same time as Delion of four hours 21 minutes 47 seconds, to gain more than a minute over the main favourites.

The result catapulted him from eighth to fifth place overall, head of such favourites as world champion Gianni Bugno of Italy and three times winner Greg Lemond

of the United States. Pascal Lino of France retained the race leader's yellow jersey for the fourth successive day.

Roche, plagued by injuries since his brilliant 1987 season when he won the Tours of France, Italy and the world title, was ebullient after his great ride.

"It's great. You can't predict something like this," he said. "It's a day not to be forgotten. I'm still having back problems but I'm prepared to live with the pain, even if it gets worse."

Rolf Jaermann of Switzerland was third in the stage which took the race into the Netherlands, the fourth of six countries being visited by this year's tour.

Lendl finally becomes U.S. citizen

HARTFORD (AP) — Ivan Lendl has ended his long quest to become a United States citizen. The Czechoslovakian native and former No. 1 player on the ATP Tour was sworn in during a private ceremony Tuesday at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service in Hartford, Conn., where he was born in 1959. Lendl, who has lived in Greenwich since 1984, was administered the oath by U.S. Judge Peter C. Dorsey. The ceremony usually is conducted in open court, but it was private at the request of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service. Lendl has won the Australian Open twice, the French Open three times and the U.S. Open three times.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan tennis 2nd round starts today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second round of the 1992 Jordan Tennis Championship begins Sunday with over 100 players participating. The championship, organised by the Jordan Tennis Federation, is being played on a three round basis in which the top eight players of each round are awarded points and the eventual top player after the third-round will be Jordan's 1992 singles tennis champion.

U.S. Major Soccer League folds

NEW YORK (AP) — The Major Soccer League (MSL), the only major nationwide professional soccer competition in the United States, folded Friday after 14 seasons. The league's demise came just two years before the World Cup, soccer's top event, will be played in the United States, and leaves the country without a nationwide professional soccer league of any kind. The final blow came Thursday evening when efforts to arrange a deal to sell the St. Louis Storm fell through. "We've been fighting this and working together for months now," MSL Commissioner Earl Forman said. "St. Louis was shaky and we just couldn't bolster it up." Dallas, Baltimore, San Diego, Wichita and Cleveland all were committed to playing the 1992-93 season, but Mr. Forman said the owners in a conference call Friday decided unanimously that the league shouldn't remain in business following the departure of Tacoma and St. Louis. "At this time, we probably have the strongest group of owners we've ever had," Mr.

Foreman said in Baltimore. "Just not enough of them."

U.S. names Olympic gymnastics team

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The U.S. Gymnastics Federation has named the women gymnasts who will compete in the Barcelona Olympics. Federation spokeswoman Susan Baughman said that seven all-around gymnasts were chosen in voting by coaches. The gymnasts are Kim Zmeskal, 15, of Houston; Shannon Miller, 15, of Edmond, Oklahoma; Kerri Strug, 14, of Tucson, Arizona; Michelle Campit, 15, of Carmichael, California; Betty Okino, 17, of Elmhurst, Illinois; Dominique Dawes, 15, of Silver Spring, Maryland; and Wendy Bruce, 19, of North Lauderdale, Florida. Coach Bela Karolyi will take the team to France on July 12 for training camp. Mr. Baughman said.

Spanish basketball players end strike

MADRID (AP) — The latest in a series of player strikes that threatened to keep Spain's basketball team out of the Olympics ended when a players' union agreed to allow three foreigners on each Spanish professional team next season. The union, which began the most recent strike Wednesday, accepted the three-player rule under the condition that only two can be on the court together, union President Jose Luis Llorente said. The limit last season in the strong Spanish League was to foreigners per team. Spain, which won a silver medal in the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, has an automatic berth in the Olympic basketball tournament as host of the Barcelona Games.

Yugoslavia accepts Olympic invitation with conditions

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslav athletes will enter the summer games in Barcelona as individuals and compete under the neutral Olympic flag and anthem, officials confirmed.

The formula was accepted by the Yugoslav Olympic Committee, the International Olympic Committee, Barcelona organisers and the Spanish government.

"This solution is the victory of the sports and the Olympic spirit over political violence," said Aleksandar Bakovic, president of the Yugoslav Olympic Committee.

IOC Director-General Francois Carrard said Yugoslav Olympic officials met a Friday deadline for replying officially to the plan.

"It's confirmed," Mr. Carrard said late Friday at IOC Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. "The Yugoslav athletes will participate at the Barcelona Games."

The arrangement ends weeks of uncertainty caused by the U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia, a former six-republic federation now consisting of just Serbia and Montenegro. The sanctions, designed to punish Serbia for fomenting violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, included a sports boycott.

But under the terms brokered by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, the Yugoslav athletes will not be representing Yugoslavia. They will be represented by the Olympic flag and be known as the Independent Team.

Mr. Carrard said the IOC wants to ensure that other parts of ex-Yugoslavia not yet recognised by the Olympic movement — Bosnia-Herzegovina, specifically — can also send athletes to Barcelona.

Bosnian competitors would be affiliated with the Independent Team, he said.

IOC executives are to consider

Bosnia-Herzegovina's membership bid at meetings late next week, but this way its athletes would be sure of participating regardless of the IOC's ruling on the application.

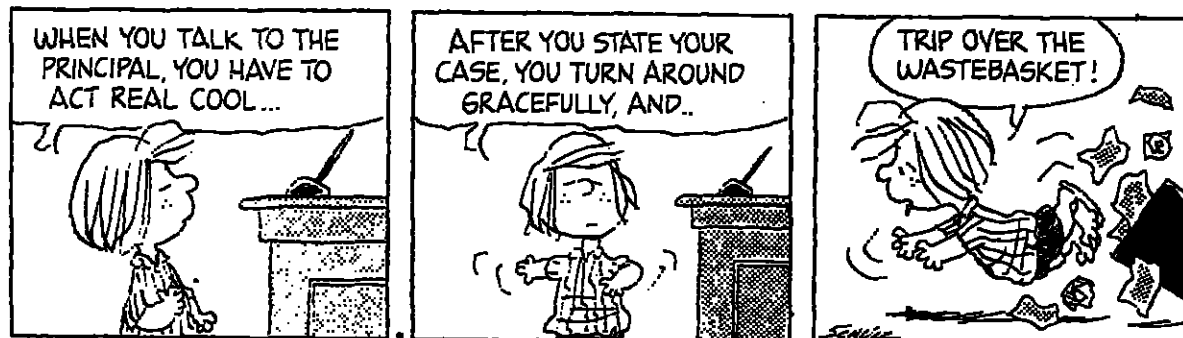
Yugoslav Olympic officials, who met Mr. Samaranch at IOC Headquarters Wednesday, decided Friday to accept those conditions for the games that begin on July 25.

"We are all convinced that our delegation did a good job in

Lausanne and that every single Yugoslav athlete will be delighted not to miss every sportsman's dream — the Olympics," said Caslav Veljic, a general secretary of the Yugoslav Olympic Committee.

"Athletes should not suffer for something they have nothing to do with," added Miljan Miljanic, the Yugoslav soccer team manager. "It is a patriotism to go to Barcelona and participate in the Olympics."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 12, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can get those who work for you to perform their duties more efficiently which brings you more contentment. Contact friends you have not seen in a long time and plan activity.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your magnetic radiation is good so don't let some obligation that can be a problem get in the way of expressing your finest charm and warmth.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think about what you can do to improve conditions at your residence and don't allow an outside associate to divert your attention in a questionable direction.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get into communication outlets that can be constructive and stop fussing about some usual routine or task that has complications regarding it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your money goals can be studied and expanded so you shortly have a greater abundance to spare so avoid going off on some pleasure jaunt.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the day for you to consider what you desire most out of life and start the motion to gain it and don't let family matters divert your efforts.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to think of your ambitions from a breadth of scope with the

aid of a very astute confidential advisor and don't run around without a purpose.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) See as many friends as possible today and get their backing for whatever your pet project is and in the evening use care not to make a financial mistake.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put your attention upon improving your worldly reputation and standing during the day but tonight don't try to make anyone else do your will.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Put more effort on some different course of action that appeals to you don't get so wrapped up in some condition you do not understand.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Consider what you can do to be more operative in handling those various responsibilities you have agreed to do and you can make quick headway.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have all kinds of opportunities now to further your career in public and improve your image there if you don't let some touchy subject.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Brighten your own particular niche and you find you will be more comfortable as well as produce the right results, tonight refrain from going to unknown places.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"How can you say I get on your nerves? You don't even know where your nerves are!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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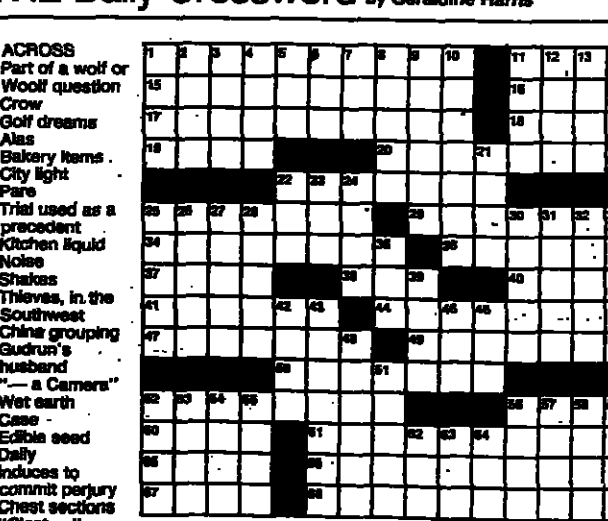
Answer: LET

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AHEAD FRUIT LIKELY WISDOM

Answer: The burglar wasn't caught because he did this quietly—JUST STOLE AWAY

THE Daily Crossword by Geraldine Harris



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Actor Caruso

2. "I saw Elba"

3. Entrance

4. Shipping machine

5. Stage of Luther

6. Group of three

7. Bedroom dance

8. Dogwood

9. Showed a show

10. Machine

11. Machine

12. Machine

13. Machine

14. Machine

15. Machine

16. Machine

17. Machine

18. Machine

19. Machine

الجمهورية العربية السورية

Economy

IMF delays review of Egypt reforms

CAIRO (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has postponed an unfavourable review of Egypt's economic reforms to give Cairo more time to meet its commitments, Western diplomats have said.

The IMF board last month delayed reviewing the report of a team which visited Egypt in May. It will send another team at the end of August to carry out an extra review, the diplomats said.

Western donors, who have agreed to write off over \$10 billion of debts in Egypt, will not review the second tranche of a \$372 million standby facility, but more importantly economists

rising frustration at the slow pace of reforms.

The World Bank, monitoring the structural adjustment side of economic reforms, delayed paying out the second tranche of a structural adjustment loan due at the end of June.

"The IMF board weren't happy at all with the team's findings in May but rather than create open conflict they gave Egypt breathing space to try again," said one Western diplomat.

An unfavourable review could cost Egypt the second tranche of a \$372 million standby facility, but more importantly economists

Ex-Soviet Union, Iran increase borrowing from banks in the West

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Iran and the former Soviet Union got the most new loans from Western banks in the second half of last year, an official survey has said.

Western banks' claims in countries in other areas rebounded by \$19 billion, or three per cent, over the period, the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said in a half-year survey.

Claims had dropped 1.5 per cent in the first half of 1991, the BIS analysts said.

Iran received the most new credits among oil-producing nations, worth \$2.2 billion, the report said.

Study to examine new role for U.N. Common Fund for Commodities

AMSTERDAM (R) — The United Nations Common Fund for Commodities, originally created as a bank to serve commodity pacts, is reviewing its operations following criticism that it is trapped in an outmoded role.

A working group will consider other uses for about \$150 million frozen in its first account, reporting back to the executive board in October, the U.N. body has said.

"The aim is to come up with ideas on what to do if the first account remains dormant," one official told Reuters.

Attacked by critics as an anachronism, the Amsterdam-based common fund's main aim has been undermined since most commodity pacts have withered away and borrowing to buy up commodity surpluses was discredited when the tin pact collapsed in 1985.

The 105-nation fund now sits on millions of dollars which it cannot use.

This impasse was criticised by delegates at last February's U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Colombia, some of whom argued that the fund needed to abandon the idea of helping interventionist commodity pacts altogether.

World Bank officials suggested it could help developing countries by underwriting hedging or swap operations.

The fund official said that the working group was not specifically geared to investigate this option but was rather a broad-ranging inquiry into all possibilities.

The aim is to maximise the organisation's positive impact on all developing producing countries, especially the poorest.

But whatever recommendations are made by the working group, there can be no speedy change in common fund policy.

Even a minor amendment to the agreement laying the ground rules for its operations is likely to take between one and two years, and complete renegotiation would take much longer.

Meanwhile, the activities of the common fund — which was negotiated in 1980 but only established in 1989 — are limited to support for small-scale research, development and diversification projects financed by its smaller second account.

Project financing from this account started last year.

Only a handful of grants have so far been made, although several dozen proposals from 18 different international commodity organisations are waiting on the books.

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 10/7/92	NEW YORK CLOSE 10/7/92
Swiss Franc	1.9000	1.9225
Deutsche Mark	1.5120	1.4945
Swiss Franc	1.3667	1.3530
French Franc	5.1005	5.0415
Japanese Yen	125.45	125.13
European Currency Unit	1.3778	1.3660

100 Pts Unit
European Opening at 8.00 a.m. GMT

10/7/92

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.37	3.43	3.68
Swiss Franc	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.75
Deutsche Mark	9.56	9.62	9.62	9.56
Swiss Franc	8.62	8.75	8.68	9.56
French Franc	9.96	9.96	9.96	9.93
Japanese Yen	4.53	4.37	4.21	4.15
European Currency Unit	10.43	10.50	10.43	10.31

100 Pts Unit
European Opening at 8.00 a.m. GMT

11/7/92

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	0.628	0.628	0.628	0.628
Swiss Franc	0.4465	0.4465	0.4465	0.4465
Deutsche Mark	0.4932	0.4932	0.4932	0.4932
Swiss Franc	0.5328	0.5328	0.5328	0.5328
Dutch Guilder	0.3957	0.3957	0.3957	0.3957
Swedish Krona	0.1231	0.1231	0.1231	0.1231
Italian Lira	0.0589	0.0589	0.0589	0.0589
Bulgarian Lev	0.02161	0.02161	0.02161	0.02161

100 Pts Unit

Other Currencies

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
Malaysian Ringgit	1.7430	1.7430	1.7430	1.7430
Taiwanese Dollar	0.03700	0.03700	0.03700	0.03700
Saudi Riyal	0.1775	0.1775	0.1775	0.1775
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.2550	2.2550	2.2550
Omani Rial	0.1810	0.1810	0.1810	0.1810
Egyptian Pound	0.2080	0.2080	0.2080	0.2080
Omani Rial	1.7030	1.7030	1.7030	1.7030
UAE Dirham	0.1810	0.1810	0.1810	0.1810
Greek Drachma	0.3585	0.3585	0.3585	0.3585
Cypriot Pound	1.5350	1.5350	1.5350	1.5350

100 Pts Unit

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	1/7/92	Close	8/7/92	Close
All-Share	143.67		142.58	
Banking Sector	105.11		104.95	
Insurance Sector	151.08		150.19	
Industry Sector	197.86		195.37	
Services Sector	182.07		180.44	

Olympia and York reports \$1.76 b loss

NEW YORK (AP) — Olympia and York (O and Y) lost \$1.76 billion in fiscal 1992, more than five times its \$301 million loss of a year earlier, the company said Friday in documents that graphically illustrated the suffering of the developer's empire.

The numbers offered some of the most detailed assessments to date of Olympia and York's books. Few bankers had a complete picture of O and Y before it was forced to release its financial documents as part of the company's bankruptcy case in Toronto.

The statements showed a stunning \$1 billion drop in the appraised value of O and Y's completed real estate projects during its fiscal year, which ended Jan. 31.

The privately owned developer, before it was forced into bankruptcy court, controlled 47 million square feet of office space in some of the world's largest cities: New York, London, and Toronto. Its heavy debts and deteriorating ability to finance them have emerged as the biggest drama in the depressed global real estate market of the 1990s.

Analysts' Waterhouse said O and Y's problems are so severe that there is "significant uncertainty" as to whether Olympia and York can continue as a going concern.

In a prepared statement, Toronto-based Olympia and York said it took special accounting charges known as writedowns of \$1.2 billion, reflecting the dramatic decline in its property and securities holdings. Property developers take writedowns when the market value of their holdings drops below the value reported on its books.

Even without these accounting charges, O and Y said it would have reported an operating loss of \$538 million for the fiscal year, compared with an income of \$172 million the year earlier.

Despite these huge writedowns, Olympia and York still has not fully depreciated its property to reflect the depressed real estate market, said Alan Tuchman of McLean, McCarthy Inc., in Toronto, a leading Canadian bank analyst.

O and Y said the appraised value of its completed properties was \$1.53 billion at Jan. 31, down from \$2.94 billion in 1991 and \$3.86 billion in 1990.

Mr. Tuchman said O and Y makes the dangerous assumption that its properties carry a special "franchise value" and therefore have extra value in a depressed market.

Israel plans to establish bank in Nigeria

Lagos (R) — Israel plans to establish a bank in Nigeria to facilitate funding of projects in Africa's most populous nation, the News Agency of Nigeria has reported.

Godwin Dabo-Adzuna, president of the Nigeria-Israeli Association, was quoted as saying the Israeli government had approved the setting up of the commercial bank in southeastern Enugu state.

Last May Nigeria and Israel restored diplomatic ties severed by the West African nation during the Arab-Israeli war of 1973.

Mr. Dabo-Adzuna told a meeting of his association in Enugu that delegations from Israel would soon arrive in the state to establish farms and train agricultural extension workers.

Many Nigerians welcomed the normalisation of ties with the Jewish state, believing that Nigeria's battered economy would benefit from Israeli investment and expertise, particularly in agriculture and construction. There are an estimated 3,000 Israelis in Nigeria.

IMF freezes Ivory Coast programme, payments

ABIDJAN (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has frozen its programme with the Ivory Coast and ceased disbursing credits in a serious setback for the government's economic recovery plan, according to diplomats.

Western diplomats in Abidjan said a visiting IMF mission concluded that Ivory Coast had failed to meet the criteria set by the fund last year when it approved a \$120 million standby credit.

The decision to freeze payments, with the risk that the World Bank and other donors will follow suit, was taken in late June but has not yet been announced by IMF headquarters in Washington or by Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara's government.

"Both sides agreed to keep a low profile and just forget about the whole programme for the time being. They agreed the fund would not declare the programme suspended and Ivory Coast would abstain from claiming drawings," said one of the sources, who track the west African country's attempts to apply stringent economic reforms.

"This is extremely sensitive and means decisions will have to be made very soon and at the highest level at the fund, the World Bank and by France," another source predicted.

The country is one of the most indebted in the world in per capita terms, with a foreign debt of some \$15 billion.

IMF support for African economic adjustment is pivotal since the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AFDB) and Western governments almost invariably follow its lead.

Mr. Ouattara, a former chief of the Africa department at the IMF, was appointed premier in 1990 to try to get Ivory economy back on the rails.

With strong backing from donors, his ambitious plans included ending the country's dangerous dependence on cocoa and coffee exports, controlling public spending and privatising loss-making state enterprises.

But world prices for cocoa and coffee, which provide 40 per cent of Ivory Coast's foreign earnings, continued to fall. Political opposition has dashed plans to make significant cuts in the \$1.3 billion annual wage bill for civil servants.

Last September's IMF standby credit was supposed to be disbursed in five instalments but only the first was paid. The others were delayed and have now been frozen because IMF targets for improved government revenue and spending cuts were not achieved in 1991, the sources said.

Thanks to last year's deal, which was approved by the IMF board despite the unprecedented decision by the United States to abstain, these donors agreed to sustain their support through adjustment loans.

Concern and panic mounts as California dithers on budget

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — With California officially broke, panic is spreading among health care workers, state universities are closing doors to new students, and bankers are grumbling about accepting state-issued IOUs.

The western U.S. state ran out of money last week as Republican Governor Pete Wilson and the Democratic-controlled legislature locked horns on how to close a \$10.7 billion spending gap for the new fiscal year.

California, once seen as virtually recession-proof, has been hit hard by a sharp downturn that has shaped the state's tax base and driven up welfare costs.

With surplus cash resources drained from previous tough years, California has begun issuing IOUs to cover bills while lawmakers negotiate on how to spread the pain of cutbacks in the \$56 billion budget.

But whatever the shape of the new budget, fear is growing that the pain in the most populous U.S. state will be felt far and wide.

State health workers are talking of a panic setting in as they contemplate how they will absorb a rumoured \$2.5 billion cut in health-care budgets in their already spare operations.

"We may be forced to make some real hard choices," said Terry Bonecutter, chief operating officer of the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles.

"We may need to look at our own survival," he added.

AIDS workers believe any cuts will trigger reductions in like funding from federal sources and could force closure of special hospices caring for those dying of the disease.

For the first time since the Great Depression, the state has begun paying employees and creditors with newly printed IOUs, known as registered warrants, until the legislature is able to break the budget impasse.

But California banks are beginning to grumble about cashing the IOUs, which work like checks, saying they are losing money handling the warrants. They initially said they would honour the warrants until the end of July but there is speculation they could stop if the amount rises too rapidly.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks in forging a new budget is Mr. Wilson's plan to pare \$2.3 billion from education. Democrats, saying education has been hit hard enough in recent years, is seeking a \$605 million cut.

In a stunning move, five universities in the California State university system announced they would not accept new students for the winter and spring terms in anticipation of the budget cuts.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN				
TELEPHONE: 560170 / 560171				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 11/07/1992				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREVIOUS CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	148	2.950	2.950	2.950
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	10,496	1.840	1.890	1.900
THE HOUSING BANK	635	4.820	2.440	2.540
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	57,875	2.730	2.700	2.700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	6,240	3.100	3.120	3.120
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	22,991	1.170	1.170	1.170
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	24,705	3.140	3.130	3.130
BETT ELHAD SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	6,440	2.880	2.870	2.860
BANK OF JORDAN	1,810	14.250	14.250	14.250
AMMAN BANK	582,926	118.000	118.000	118.000
JORDAN FRANCHISE INSURANCE	5,054	2.500	2.490	2.490
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	389	3.890	3.890	3.890
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	4,000	4.100	4.060	4.000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	12,991	1.360	1.360	1.340
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	243	2.500	2.430	2.430
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONGOLORE HOTELS	26,680	1.580	1.580	1.560
HOUSING & REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	748	0.990	0.990	1.000
ROYAL ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	5,701	0.980	0.990	0.990
JORDAN GOLF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	10,420	0.700	0.700	0.690
JORDAN KOWAT CO. FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD.	3,060	1.100	1.100	1.120
AMMAN ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	7,569	2.990	2.940	2.930
AMMAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	89,164	9.970	10.000	10.100
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2,940	5.920	5.880	5.880
AMMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	23,550	21.000	21.550	21.550
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	92,448	4.630	4.570	4.620
DAN AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	18,486	6.700	6.700	6.650
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	23,760	3.790	3.790	3.800
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	23,490	4.120	4.150	4.180
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	2,138	0.770	0.780	0.770
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	2,650	5.100	5.300	5.200
AMMAN CENTER FOR FRANK. & CEREALS	104,221	3.080	3.070	3.060
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1,800	0.600	0.600	0.600
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	7,423	13.450	13.540	13.500
BAFIA INDUSTRIES	2,706	2.930	3.860	3.880
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACH/STICO	230	1.140	1.150	1.150
SPINNING & WEAVING	2,745	3.320	3.310	3.320
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	4,950	7.050	7.000	7.000
JORDAN RULPO-CHRONICS	5,996	3.560	3.530	3.520
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	12,463	1.260	1.260	1.250
JORDAN ROOFTOP INDUSTRIES	1,900	2.000	1.900	1.900
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	5,220	0.590	0.580	0.580
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	138,124	5.190	5.170	5.170
AMMAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	23,768	2.200	2.160	2.200
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	13,625	0.500	0.470	0.450
GRAND TOTAL	2,350,284			

Taiwan gold imports soar

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's gold imports soared 90 per cent in the first half of this year as appreciation of the Taiwan dollar spurred buying of the metal for industrial use and investment, the finance ministry has said.

Imports of gold bars, coins and plate climbed to 108.68 tonnes, worth about \$1.2 billion, in the first six months from 57.19 tonnes in the same period last year, the ministry said.

The strength of the Taiwan dollar — which hit a record 24.52 to the U.S. dollar last week, compared to a level of around 27 in mid-1991 — had made it cheaper for Taiwanese to buy foreign gold, bullion dealers said.

Taiwan is a major gold buyer and was the world's biggest purchaser in 1988, when it imported 355 tonnes. Imports totalled 111 tonnes last year.

Dealers forecast imports of about 200 tonnes in 1992. The lifting of a four-decade-old ban on gold exports later this year is expected to make the metal more attractive by giving investors the option of selling gold abroad.

Gold imports in June surged to 17.2 tonnes from 2.42 tonnes a year earlier, but dropped slightly from 18 tonnes in May.

Dealers attributed the fall from May to approach of the traditional Chinese "ghost month" which runs from July 30 to Aug. 27 this year.

Buying of gold jewellery tends to fall during ghost month mainly because many Chinese feel it is an unlucky time to get married.

"Traditionally people cut down gold buying before and during the ghost month. But it will recover after that," said Tong Meng-Hei, vice-president of Hung Foo Bullion Company.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's Giant Manufacturing Co. Ltd, one of the world's biggest bicycle makers, plans to form a joint venture in Shanghai with a leading Chinese bicycle producer.

Giant has signed an initial agreement with Shanghai Bicycle Factory, which makes the Phoenix brand, to establish the joint venture in October, a company spokesman said.

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CIS states revive past strains at CSCE forum

HELSINKI (R) — The 15 former Soviet republics, making their debut at the Helsinki security forum, injected melancholy strains of old hatreds and old political thinking into the birth-day party for the new, post-cold war Europe.

Eleven of them now grouped as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), they also contributed ethnic hotspots, a bitter dispute over ex-Soviet troops and the startling expansion of "Europe" into the Central Asian heartland.

New members Azerbaijan and Armenia, in a virtual state of war over Nagorno-Karabakh, frustrated late-night mediation bids by diplomats at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Likewise, proposals for a peacekeeping force in Moldova, where ethnic Romanians are battling Slav insurgents, foundered on CSCE rules demanding consensus.

The Baltic states used the forum to chastise other delegations at the security conference for refusing to condemn outright the presence of 130,000 ex-Soviet

troops on their soil.

"Most of the new, independent member states of the CSCE are currently living through an acute crisis," former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze warned other leaders.

"The general situation is such that they find it very hard to catch up with the Helsinki train, even though it has slowed down considerably," said Mr. Shevardnadze, now leader of newly-sovereign Georgia.

Never was the gap between the political haves and have-nots so evident.

Western states agreed at a one-hour meeting to mount an unprecedented air and sea operation to back sanctions against Serbia over bloodshed in Yugoslavia. But the stepchildren of the Soviet collapse wallowed in the past.

"The Baltic states have more than once been faced with the lack of respect for principle," Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said of the dispute over the Russian troops.

"This poses a threat to all the small nations, for the powerful of this world are quick to see easy it

to place the so-called global interest above the global right."

Estonian President Arnold Ruutel said the CSCE had failed the Baltic countries.

"We have hoped and believed in its ability to help resolve one of (our) most important problems — the need for complete withdrawal of all ex-Soviet troops. Unfortunately, our expectations have yet to be fulfilled."

The former Soviet states also offered the security conference the spectacle of old guard Communists adopting the new language of the day.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov, once his republic's leading communist, said his Central Asian state had been reborn.

"Having rejected the dictate of a single party and an economy based on the command-administrative system, the independent Uzbekistan has chosen a (new) road," said Mr. Karimov.

Rakhmon Nabiyev of neighboring Tajikistan celebrated the fall of the totalitarian system he once headed as an appointee of the late Kremlin boss Leonid Brezhnev.

Beregovoy rallies French Socialists

BORDEAUX, France (R) — French Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy, seeking to rally the Socialist Party faithful before a crucial voting season, launched a vigorous attack on the opposition at an extraordinary party congress Saturday.

Seeking to repair the damage of a 10-day truckers' dispute that paralysed the country's roads and the return of a nagging party financing scandal, Mr. Berégovoy said a centre-right government would only compound France's problems.

"There are three paths: An appeal to hatred and exclusion, the position of the (far-right) National Front... the fatalism of each for himself, the choice of the conservatives or the fight for civil rights and solidarity," he said.

He attacked the opposition's policies on education, tax cuts and deregulation, saying they favoured individual interest groups to the detriment of society as a whole.

Mr. Berégovoy offered staunch support to Henri Emmanuelli, the speaker of the National Assembly who according to a report in the newspaper Le Monde is about to be indicted on corruption charges.

To loud applause, Mr. Berégovoy voiced indignation that Mr. Emmanuelli, a former party treasurer, should read about his possible indictment in the press before hearing a word from the magistrate investigating allegations of illicit party take-offs from the construction industry.

"I believe in the need for an independent judiciary but also a calm judiciary in which the confidentiality of investigation is scrupulously respected," he said.

"It is high time that every citizen, whatever his rank or title, is guaranteed to be presumed innocent until the courts have passed judgement."

The news of Mr. Emmanuelli's possible indictment has overshadowed the three-day congress and cast unwelcome light on the party's long-standing financial scandals as it struggles to regain ground in the opinion polls.

Party members are already worried that a referendum on Sept. 20 on the Maastricht Treaty on European union could turn into a confidence vote on the government's record.

They also need all the luck they can muster to avoid a widely-expected defeat in parliamentary elections due by next March.

Mr. Berégovoy has made some headway since taking over the premiership from Edith Cresson in April, vowing to fight corruption and campaigning for European union under the Maastricht accord.

He defended the government's handling of the trucker dispute, which ended three days ago.

He accused the opposition of wanting to give in too easily over the brunt of the dispute, a new point-based driving licence, and blamed the last centre-right government of 1986-88 for the truckers' poor working conditions.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

'World population is now 5.5 billion'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The world's population now stands at 5.5 billion people and is expected to increase to 6.2 billion by the year 2000 and to 8.5 billion by 2025, according to U.N. projections. On the eve of World Population Day being observed Saturday, the U.N. Population Division released its regular biennial revision of population figures. The report will be published later. It said that world population currently is increasing by 1.7 per cent a year, adding 93 million people annually. The growth rate is likely to drop to 1 per cent by 2025 but even then the world would still be adding 85 million people a year.

Italian criminal helps to free boy

CAGLIARI, Sardinia (R) — One of Italy's most notorious criminals Saturday said he helped release eight-year-old Farouk Kassam, freed after a kidnapping ordeal on Sardinia lasting six months. "It's true I was involved," Graziano Messina, a convicted murderer and abductor, told reporters. Mr. Messina terrorised the Mediterranean island in the post-war years but became a folk hero for many Italians after he once kidnapped a child and then, full of remorse, sent him home after a few hours with money to buy some sweets on the way. A series of daring prison breakouts, one to hold a tryst with a lover, has since enhanced his standing. Farouk, son of a wealthy Belgian-Arab hotel owner, was released Friday night, shaven-headed and with part of his ear cut off, but otherwise unharmed, police said. He had been held for 178 days and was the 38th child under 10 to have been held for ransom in Italy since 1945.

Ramos wants end to squabbling

MANILA (R) — President Fidel Ramos Saturday urged the Philippines' fractious politicians to stop squabbling and tackle the country's problems, or risk an outbreak of discontent. "We risk courting popular anger," Gen. Ramos told politicians belonging to his Lakas (People Power) Coalition in a Manila hotel. Filipinos want the government to immediately tackle pressing problems facing the Philippines and do not want to see the nation's politicians "devoting precious little time to unproductive political squabbles and grandstanding," he added. Gen. Ramos said he will form his own political party to wage an unrelenting war against poverty in the Philippines, where more than half the of the country's 62 million people are poor. "To be able to wage an effective and sustained war against poverty, we need above all a party to transform our vision... who shall reach into every... community across the length of our archipelago," he declared.

Manila releases communist leaders

MANILA (AP) — The police released two key communist rebel leaders, and President Fidel Ramos offered conciliatory moves towards peace talks to end the 23-year-old insurgency. Rafael Baylosis and Benjamin De Vera, accused of being leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines, were freed on bail, said Police Sgt. Luisito Vencabul at Camp Crame Detention Centre. Also Friday, the government said Philippine embassies abroad have been instructed to "intensify contacts" with exiled Communist and Muslim secessionist leaders. "Let us continue to extend the hand of friendship and solidarity to all, especially to our enemies from the extreme left and extreme right," Gen. Ramos said at a military testimonial parade before Baylosis and De Vera were freed.

Pan Am found guilty of wilful misconduct in Lockerbie bomb

NEW YORK (R) — A U.S. jury found Pan American World Airways guilty of wilful misconduct in a case filed by relatives of people killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

After three days of deliberations, the jurors in Brooklyn Federal Court found Pan Am guilty of charges stemming from allegations of lax security in the airline's baggage handling system.

Parents of some of the victims, who have been attending the trial since it began on April 27, hugged and wept when the verdict was announced. "Finally, there is some justice," one woman said in the courtroom hallway.

The families' lawyers said terrorists smuggled a bomb inside a cassette player onto the plane, which exploded on Dec. 21, 1988.

Of the 270 people who died — 11 of them on the ground — 189 were Americans.

Another trial will be needed to assess any damages claim, and none has yet been scheduled. Pan Am, whose parent company was Pan Am Corp., ceased operations last year after filing for bankruptcy protection.

Although Pan Am is no longer flying, its insurer, USAIG, a unit of United States Aircraft Underwriters Inc., could face damages of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Thomas Plaskett, the former Chairman and chief executive of Pan Am, said the failed airline would appeal the decision.

"Indeed, much of what we do know with certainty about Lockerbie was not shared with this jury, and so today's verdict, much like the whole affair, remains clouded by uncertainty," Mr.

Kidnapped Georgian leader 'is not in danger'

MOSCOW (R) — Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Kavsadze, kidnapped two days ago by supporters of deposed leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia, is not in danger, a doctor released by the kidnappers said Saturday. "According to Alexander Mikailov... who was freed yesterday by the kidnappers, Aleksander Kavsadze is out of danger now and there is no threat to his health," Moscow Radio said Saturday.

The kidnapping was staged two days ago in western Georgia, a hotbed of support for the ousted leader who fled to the neighbouring Chechen Autonomous Republic in January. Washington has condemned the rebels' latest show of resistance.

The ruling State Council's acting press secretary, Ramin Chelidze, told Reuters the kidnappers had released Dr. Mikail, the head doctor of a western Georgian hospital, who had been in Mr. Kavsadze's car.

But Dr. Mikail said the kidnappers now planned to spirit the deputy premier over the border to the Chechen Republic.

Gamsakhurdia supporters have denied their involvement in the snatch, acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua told a State Council session.

"However, we have no reason to believe them," Mr. Sigua added.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, elected president by a landslide in May 1991, was later denounced as a dictator by his opponents. He was overthrown in January after a two-week battle in which hundreds died.

Since then his supporters have waged a low-level guerrilla war in the west of the republic, attacking government forces and strongholds as well as blowing up bridges and roads.

Actor Glenn Ford in critical condition

LOS ANGELES (R) — Veteran actor Glenn Ford was listed in critical condition Friday following surgery overnight to stop internal bleeding, a hospital spokesman said. "He was taken into surgery to control an ulcer at the base of his oesophagus that was the source of significant blood loss," said Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre spokesman Ron Wise. The operation went well and the 76-year-old actor was returned to the intensive-care unit, Mr. Wise said. Ford, who has appeared in more than 200 films, underwent surgery last week to remove blood clots. After showing signs of improvement, he took a turn for the worse. He was admitted to Cedars-Sinai less than two weeks after being released from another hospital following surgery for blood clots in his lungs and pneumonia. In a career spanning five decades, the Canadian-born actor is known for playing rugged, good-hearted heroes. Among his best-known films are The Blackboard Jungle (1955), The Teahouse Of The August Moon (1956), and Gilda (1946). Ford, who was born in Port Neuf, Quebec, made his movie debut in 1940.

Judge: 11-year-old can sue parents for 'divorce'

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — A judge who let an 11-year-old boy sue for "divorce" from his parents has opened the courthouse doors to youngsters with gripes about their families. Some hailed the ruling as a major stride in children's rights, but a lawyer for the boy's biological mother said it could allow kids to sue their parents over even minor problems.

Circuit Judge Thomas S. Kirk gave the boy — identified only as Gregory K. — the right to seek freedom from his parents so he can be adopted by the foster family with whom he has lived for the past nine months. Gregory claims his parents have neglected and abused him. His lawsuit says he has spent most of the past eight years in the custody of his father, foster parents or the state, which he says failed to represent his interests. Jerri Blair, the lawyer who sued on behalf of the boy, said it was the first such ruling nationwide. "It opens the door a little bit wider for kids to have control of their lives, especially abused kids," said Karen Adams, national coordinator of the National Child Rights Alliance.

Prince Charles launches self-help scheme

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, announced the setting up of an international task force to promote self-projects in the Third World. The task force will include international business leaders, aid agencies and other organisations. The Business Leaders Forum, an international charity the prince sponsored in 1990, will oversee the scheme. It will promote projects in partnership with local communities, to help them overcome hunger, poverty, homelessness and environmental degradation. "It will explore the potential for partnerships between the public and private sector. It is a unique initiative because nothing of that nature, with someone like the Prince of Wales as its figurehead, exists on an international basis," a forum spokesman said.

Robin Hood arrow launches Sherwood Forest revival

NOTTINGHAM, England (R) — A British minister fired an arrow from a longbow to recall the legend of Robin Hood at the launch of a scheme to revive Sherwood Forest, Little now remains of the forest where the medieval outlaw and his "merry men" are reputed to have taken refuge from the sheriff of Nottingham and robbed rich travellers to feed peasants burdened by cruel taxes. Agriculture Minister John Gummer, flanked by two archers in medieval costume, fired the arrow into a clearing in the central English forest and planted an oak tree where it landed to inaugurate the project. Legend has it that Robin Hood fired an arrow from his death bed and was buried at the spot where it landed. "The government believes that the time is now right for a programme of work to improve, and perhaps recreate, the Sherwood Forest of old," Mr. Gummer said. The forest attracts about 800,000 visitors a year, lured by the appeal of the Robin Hood legend, according to the government-funded forestry commission.

Noriega likely to spend rest of life in prison

MIAMI (R) — Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega sentenced to 40 years in prison for racketeering and drug trafficking, must still deal with another trial in the United States, federal prosecutors said Saturday.

Gen. Noriega also faces charges of murder and embezzlement in Panama, they said.

The other U.S. charges are for marijuana trafficking, and federal prosecutors in Tampa, Florida told the New York Times they intended to try the former Panamanian strongman.

Gen. Noriega will spend the next 60 days in jail in Miami, while his lawyers file legal arguments supporting their claim that he should be treated as a prisoner of war.

Judge William Hoeweler rejected those arguments — which claimed that because he was a prisoner of war, Gen. Noriega was not subject to U.S. criminal law — in passing sentence Friday.

If Noriega served the full 40-year term, he would be 98 years old upon release.

"As they were unable to kill me yesterday (during the 1989 U.S. invasion), they bring me here today so you will do them the favour of killing me alive," Gen. Noriega told Judge Hoeweler in a rambling monologue.

Prosecutors had asked for the maximum 120-year sentence. The judge did not specify any terms for parole, but Gen. Noriega's lawyer Jon May said the toppled general would probably not be eligible for parole until he serves at least 26 years — and would be 84 years old.

In Panama City, motorists tooted their horns in celebration and small groups of people gathered to wave white handkerchiefs and throw confetti on news of the sentence.

Gen. Noriega never took the



Manuel Noriega

stand in his own defence during the seven-month trial, which ended with his conviction on April 9 on eight charges.

Brought here after the December 1989 U.S. invasion, he was found guilty of enabling the Colombian Medellin cartel to ship tonnes of cocaine to the United States.

But, showing up in a full-dress uniform with medals and epaulettes, he gave a three-hour speech describing himself as a victim of U.S. political persecution.

"My indictment was orchestrated by those who feared me, men who sought to discredit me through accusations or to kill me through the invasion," he said.

He claimed that U.S. administrations of President Ronald Reagan and George Bush were out to get him because he refused to let Panama be used by the United States.

Gen. Noriega said he had refused to use Panamanian forces to create a pretext for a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua, and had blocked a plot to use Panamanian doctors to kill the Shah of Iran when he was in exile in Panama.

Sri Lanka: 46 soldiers killed in rebel raid

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas made their most devastating assault of the past year Saturday, killing 46 government soldiers in a pre-dawn raid on a remote army outpost, military sources said.

The attack, in the jungles of northern Sri Lanka, was launched as 5,000 troops were engaged in a 14-day-old offensive in the country's far northern Jaffna peninsula against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

"Rebels in strength attacked the forward defences of Katupotha in a confrontation lasting about two hours," military sources said.

Residents said by telephone that 55 soldiers had been killed in an attack by about 800 rebels who fired mortars and small arms at the jungle camp at Katupotha, about 40 kilometres northeast of Anuradhapura town.

Anuradhapura is 200 kilometres from Colombo.

"People who went to the camp site found it completely burned down. They were told that 55 soldiers had died in the attack," said a resident who lives two kilometres from the camp.

Military authorities said 11 soldiers were wounded in the attack while one rebel body was recovered.

"Troops have seen at least 20 to 25 terrorists either killed or injured being carried away by the terrorists," the statement said.

Rebels were also believed to have stolen weapons from the camp.

Military sources said the Katupotha attack was probably designed to divert the army's attention from its assault on rebel positions in Jaffna.

Northern commander Major-General Denzil Kobbeekaduwa rushed to Katupotha with military units and sent badly-injured soldiers to hospital, military sources said.

The Tigers have fought since 1983 for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils.

In the government's Jaffna Operation, troops consolidated areas captured from the rebels since the offensive began on June 28. The main thrust of the operation was to seal off a rebel route to the peninsula, which the army did on Tuesday.

The army estimates at least 360 rebels and 54 soldiers have died in the fighting. There is no independent confirmation of these figures.

In a separate incident, rebels killed 15 soldiers in an ambush in the eastern district of Trincomalee Friday as the troops tried to clear a road of mines.

More than 22,000 people have died since 1983 when the Tigers stepped up their separatist campaign.

Tiger guerrillas said they inflicted heavy casualties on the army in the peninsula Thursday and destroyed a Chinese-made T55 tank.

"In this engagement, another Chinese-made T55 tank was totally destroyed, making it the third T55 tank to be destroyed by the Tigers in the two-week battle," the group said in a statement issued Friday from its London office.

Military sources said one tank was slightly damaged by a rebel rocket but had been repaired and was back in operation. They denied other rebel claims.

Goebbels 'lusted for power'

LONDON (R) — Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels lusted to take over power from a weakened Adolf Hitler after an abortive plot to kill the Fuehrer, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reported Friday.

It quoted 1944 extracts from what it said were missing pages from the diaries of the Third Reich's mouthpiece, beating the rival Sunday Times newspaper to what it called "an historic publishing coup."

The rambling journals quoted in the Daily Mail suggest Goebbels coveted power and was ready to assume the mantle of dictator from a Hitler he saw as old and weakened.

"Suddenly the Fuehrer (Hitler) had got very old... now I feel strong enough for dictatorship," one extract said.

"I have the feeling that when I really get the appropriate powers it will be, in the present situation, extraordinarily easy for me to lead."

The Mail, which devoted eight pages to the extracts, said they covered the days immediately after German generals tried and failed to blow up Hitler at his Wolf's Lair headquarters in east Prussia.

The Mail's move preempted the planned serialisation of Goebbels writings by the Sunday Times, which has caused a furore by hiring right-wing historian David Irving, a cult figure among Neo-Nazis, to transcribe them.

The Daily Mail said the diaries had been authenticated by experts.

British historian Peter Patfield said publication would undoubtedly make a good read but warned that the writings of Goebbels had to be treated "with a great deal of caution."

"It is propaganda from the grave about the Third Reich," Mr. Patfield told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

"He was constitutionally incapable of telling the truth but he was also a very, very clever liar," Mr. Patfield said.

The extracts Irving was working on came from photographic plates of the diaries held in Moscow archives, where they had apparently gone unnoticed for decades.

French government scientists urged caution Thursday and offered to carry out forensic tests on the Moscow journals to prove beyond doubt that they are not fakes like the infamous "Hitler diaries" of 1983 which turned out to be forged.

The Daily Mail said its information came from originals at the Munich Institute of Contemporary History, which it said had obtained the diaries two years ago from east Germany.

It said the institute was furious at the prospect of Mr. Irving having a hand in their publication.

Mr. Irving says the Nazi gas chambers were invented by British propagandists and disputes the figure of six million Jews who died.